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Central Eurasia

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Moscow Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Detailed

NC1108205694 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The participants in the Moscow talks examined article by article the draft agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. The draft agreement is the joint plan of the CSCE, CIS, and Russia.

Talks have been going on in Moscow with Russia's mediation since 5 August. Representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh are taking part in it.

On Wednesday the officials from the CIS Executive Secretariat joined the negotiations, which are being conducted under Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's special representative on Karabakh talks.

The Swedish leadership of the CSCE Minsk Group dealing with Nagorno-Karabakh was also invited to the negotiations but they did not arrive in Moscow.

An ITAR-TASS reporter has learned from informed sources that the agreement envisages the full and final cessation of fire and military operations, the disengagement of the armies from the friction zone toward a predesignated line, creation of a neutral zone, and a number of other military-technical measures. Parallel with the disengagement of the troops, the plan calls for the deployment of international peace forces in the neutral zone. The sides should also withdraw their forces from each other's lands occupied during the hostilities and at the same time stop the blockade of the communication routes in the region. The next stage will be the return of the refugees to the liberated areas. The plan is to define and consolidate the status of Nagorno-Karabakh during the negotiating process and the CSCE Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh.

The talks are expected to continue for three more days.

Conclusion of Talks Said Near

NC1108203294 Baku TURAN in English 1805 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, August 11 (TURAN)—Today the talks among the experts from Foreign and Defense Ministries of Armenia and Azerbaijan, which began last Saturday [6 August], are expected to be completed in Moscow, the source from Russia's Foreign Ministry told TURAN. The talks are conducted through the mediation of special representative of Russian President, Vladimir Kazimirov. The representatives from Armenian Community of Nagorno-Karabakh take part in the talks as well.

During the current round of the talks the parties suggested continuation of work over the Major Political agreement. The following issues were under the discussion during this round of the talks: the mechanism and the schedule for withdrawal of troops from front line, the maps with safe zones for separation of the troops of the warring parties, liberation of occupied territories and return of refugees to their native lands.

The source from Russian Foreign Ministry reported that the preliminary agreement concerning further maintenance of truce, which had been achieved in May, has been found during the talks.

As international guarantees for peace in the region the parties agreed to use the monitors and peacemaking forces. According to the Azeri party, peacemaking forces will be introduced in the region after dispatching of the CSCE's monitors in the conflict zone.

In accordance with the Major political agreement, the CSCE Minsk Group and the CIS will provide their military contingents for peacemaking forces. The peacemaking forces of the CIS will contain only Russian troops. Azerbaijan agreed with that under condition if Turkish military contingent will be deployed in Azerbaijan under the aegis of the CSCE. Final agreement on this issue is to be adopted during the meeting among the Defense Ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Commanders of Nagorno-Karabakh's forces, which will take place on this week.

The same source reports that the Major political agreement on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict can be signed by the end of August, thinks the Armenian party as well as Russian mediator.

In this connection, monitors must be dispatched in the conflict zone by the middle of September. On the first stage 70 monitors from the CSCE are expected to be dispatched in the conflict zone and later their number will be increased up to 250.

The Azeri party insisted on discussion of Nagorno-Karabakh's status on the final stage of the settlement process. Baku intends to discuss the fate of occupied Shusha and Lachin cities.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 Aug

LD1208054694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0512 GMT 12 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 12 ITAR-TASS—All Russian newspapers lead with detailed reports about the Chechen people's congress which took place in Groznyy, as the situation in the Chechen republic remains in the focus of the public and the press.

The newspaper IZVESTIYA reports that the congress "took place in an atmosphere close to wartime". "The drama theatre where the delegates assembled, resembled a besieged fortress: Armoured vehicles could be seen in the square in front of the main entrance, tens of

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guardsmen armed to the eyes and people with all kinds of guns were in plenty also among the audience. For all the diversity of opinions, both Dudayev's supporters and opponents agreed on one point—any attempt on the part of Russia to cut the Chechen knot with the help of military force would spell disaster both for Chechnya and for Russia. An elderly delegate to the congress confided in a reporter if Russia launches an aggression, he would set off for Moscow with a good load of explosives. "I am a kamikaze," he said. "If they do harm to me, I will take care and do harm to them".

According to the same elderly man, about a thousand Chechen guys are ready to do the same in Russia.

According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, citing sources in the Chechen national security service, "personnel and arms continue to be airlifted from Russia to the Nadterechny district of the Chechen republic". "Only late on the tenth of August and early eleventh of August, five helicopters crossed Chechnya's airspace. One of them, flying towards Beslan, North Ossetia, was boarded on the morning of the eleventh of August by the opposition leader, Umar Avturkhanov, who, according to the Chechen national security service, was on his way to Moscow".

"The Chechens have little to choose from: Either with Dudayev or with Avturkhanov," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) comments. "If blood begins to flow, there will be bloody revenge. And then a war which is still easier to prevent than to stop when and if it breaks out."

Commenting on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Volga tour, IZVESTIYA notes: "Boris Yeltsin's arrival in Nizhniy Novgorod is expected on Saturday morning. The president will proceed to the Nizhniy Novgorod fair where a very modest ecological exhibition is on, keeping its doors open for one more day for this special occasion. The compilers of the president's itinerary took into account that Yeltsin is fond of tennis. For the start, the president will be shown tennis courts in the Pushkin Gardens where not only the local elite but also young hopefuls can be seen playing. The programme's upshot will be Boris Nikolayevich's personal appearance on the best of these courts. He will play against the best-known local tennis player, Governor Boris Nemtsov, who returned home from (the Black Sea resort of) Sochi a mere twenty-four hours before the match. While the game between the president and the Nizhniy Novgorod governor is in full swing, another Russian celebrity will step from a riverboat onto local soil—Boris Yeltsin's rival in the past presidential race and, as is expected, also in the future presidential elections, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA recalls that two months ago, Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared a total war on crime. Sources in the Ministry of Internal Affairs believe that things have got going since. "On the whole the measures taken have permitted to suppress the activity of 735 organised criminal groups, including 26 major criminal organisations and groupings which posed a serious danger", according to the data provided by the Interior Ministry. The newspaper says in its comment: "Let us ask ourselves a question: Did that document add anything new to our life? Did we sigh with relief? Did any, at least some smallest shoots go up in the vast field of combatting corruption and organised crime? It seems that a reply to these questions can be got without spending a lot of money on wide scale polls. It can be gleaned from popular sayings like "A dog barks but the caravan goes its own way", or "While someone speaks, some others push ahead". What could have happened after all if the president himself said before signing his decree that corruption appears to be present only in the intermediate links of the power structure, while the top leadership is absolutely unsoiled. Just as in the good old times—All people are equal but some are more equal than others".

The NEW DAILY also carries an article on the same subject. It analyses the situation in Uzbekistan. The newspaper writes: Agents of the National Security Service detained the Uzbek president's adviser Mavlyan Umurzakov after catching him in the action, taking a 200-thousand-dollar bribe. It is rumoured that the amount was "traditional" for the adviser. Hot on the heels of Umurzakov's arrest several high-level officials were sacked. But those were cosmetic measures. As a rule facts like that one are not made public. Most of them are almost impossible to expose, although none in Uzbekistan doubts that the state apparatus at all levels of power is corrupt throughout. Just as none doubts that the bulk of the national economy is no longer subject to public control".

TRUD carries an interview with Most-bank President Vladimir Gusinskiy who said "I don't believe in an influx of foreign investments in the Russian economy". "Few are those who is interested in a flourishing competitive Russia," he said. "We can and must count only on our own strength and finances. We have both. But in order to use them properly, a reasonable policy is needed based on the vital interests of the whole society. There is no other way out."

PRAVDA carries an extensive interview with a historian Vladlen Sirotkin, who heads a public international expert council on Russian gold and real estate abroad.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA publishes a story about the Swedish spy Stig Bergling who was sentenced to prison for spying for the former Soviet Union in his time.

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Importance of Military Exercises With U.S. Stressed

LD1208100494 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] It will be recalled that in late May this year Russia signed up to the NATO Partnership For Peace program. Within the program's framework a joint U.S.-Russian staff training exercise was due to have been held in the region of Orenburg this summer. But, it has so far failed to take shape due to the vehement opposition by some of our politicians, as well as backwoodsmen from the vicinity of the Totskoye testing site near Orenburg.

As far as we know, the exercise has been tentatively rescheduled for late September. Doubts still remain as to whether the training game will be held at all and what it is meant for. These were exactly the questions our correspondent Irina Cherkov put to a State Duma deputy, Sergey Yushenkov. He is also a member of the Security Council of the Russian Federation and the chairman of the parliamentary committee on defense.

Establishing cooperation between our armies, Mr. Yushenkov says, is quite important. Still more so if staff training games are concerned, rather than actual combat. The main aim of the exercise ahead is preparing for joint peacekeeping in case some regional conflict erupts. Unfortunately, there are several hotspots within the former Soviet Union. Still more unfortunately, it's the Russian officers and men who bear the brunt of peacemaking there. No wonder we are greatly interested in the Totskoye exercise taking place at long last.

It's Russia that is playing host, not the United States. It's Russia not the United States that is pressing ahead with the training exercise. In July a representative parliamentary delegation accompanied by some of our military top brass visited the region of Orenburg. We assured the local people that not a single bomb would be exploded and no harm would be done to the precious local environment. And thank God, it seems to me that we've managed to dispel their fears. As for the protests on the part of the Liberal Democratic leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, it's worthwhile considering just two of his catchphrases. In a fit of dashing patriotism he explains: Never shall a GI jackboot tread Russian soil. At the same time, in his notorious book, "The Last Push Towards The South", the same leader indulges in daydreaming: Washing the sore feet of our chivalrous soldiers will be the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. In way of arguing, let's point out that American soldiers don't wear jackboots, they wear laced boots instead. It's a blunder on Mr. Zhirinovskiy's part. Second, his public statements smack heavily of what we term Cold War—the period Russia is certainly not in favor of returning to. Earlier this month, Mr. Yushenkov says, I met President Yeltsin. He told me that whatever the odds, the joint staff exercise would go ahead this fall. Most probably, after 18th September. All those rumors that the training games are likely to compromise Russia's security are blatant lies.

Envoy Vorontsov Presents Credentials to Clinton

LD1208062294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0612 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Washington August 12 ITAR-TASS—Russia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States Yuliy Vorontsov on Thursday [11 August] presented credential to U.S. President Bill Clinton in a White House ceremony.

During a conversation which followed President Clinton expressed satisfaction with the state of relations between the two countries and stressed the importance of continuing and deepening the development of partnership between the United States and Russia. He added that the forthcoming Russian-American summit in September will certainly serve this purpose.

Yuliy Vorontsov conveyed to the U.S. president greetings from Boris Yeltsin and assured Bill Clinton that he would do his best to strengthen friendship between the Russian and American peoples.

Yuliy Mikhailovich Vorontsov, an ethnic Russian, was born in Leningrad on the seventh of October 1929. He is married and has a daughter and the grandson. A career diplomat, he graduated from the Moscow Institute of International Relations in 1952, and began to work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. From the beginning of the fifties he worked in the permanent mission of the Soviet Union at the United Nations in New York and in the central apparatus of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow.

From 1966 to 1970 he was a counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Washington and from 1970 to 1977, an envoy counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in the United States.

From 1977 to 1983, Vorontsov was the Soviet ambassador to India and from 1983 to 1986 the ambassador to France.

From 1986 to 1990 he was first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Simultaneously, from 1988 to 1989, he acted as the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan.

In 1990, Vorontsov was appointed the Soviet ambassador to the United States and Soviet representative to the Security Council of the United Nations.

Yuliy Vorontsov was appointed Russian ambassador to the United States of America by President Boris Yeltsin's decree dated July 23, 1994.

Commission Supports Russian-U.S. Chemical Cooperation

LD1208012394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1713 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 11 August—The inter-departmental commission for elimination of chemical weapons today

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supported stepping up the contacts between the Russian and American defense ministries in the sphere of chemical disarmament. Its sitting was held at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry and was chaired by Col-Gen Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of general staff.

The commission was set up under the Russian Federation Defense Ministry by the Russian Government in the spring of 1994. Officials from Russian ministries involved in the issue took part in today's sitting.

The commission supported the proposals of the Russian Defense Ministry on developing shared Russian-American technologies which would ensure a safe and ecologically clean elimination of chemical weapons on the basis of research conducted in both countries, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the department for press and information of the Russian military ministry.

Yeltsin Issues Edict on Russian Citizens Abroad

LD1108161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1441 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin issued on Thursday a decree on Russia's policy with respect to Russian citizens living abroad, the president's press service said.

The decree instructed the government to consider and approve by September 1, 1994, the main directions of Russia's state policy as concerns Russian citizens settled abroad, as well as the list of top priority measures to support ethnic Russians in CIS member-countries and the baltic states.

The decree provides for setting up a government commission for affairs of Russian citizens living abroad. The commission will coordinate the activities of federal bodies of government and monitor the implementation of the main directions by relevant ministries and agencies.

Infantry Deputy Commander on Pullout From Moldova

LD1108190094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Deputy Commander of Russian Infantry Forces, Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyov, spoke positively about the agreements reached between Moscow and Kishinev on Russian troop pullout from Moldova. Vorobyov believes the understandings reached during the bilateral talks on August 9-10 will help lower tensions between Kishinev and Tiraspol (administrative center of Transdniestria, a self-proclaimed republic on the territory of Moldova). Vorobyov granted an interview with Interfax on Thursday.

During the 10th round of the Russian-Moldovan talks, earlier in Kishinev, the two sides agreed that Russian troops stationed in Moldova are to be withdrawn within three years.

Speaking about Commander of the 14th Russian Army, Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, Vorobyov said that nobody had dismissed him. Several days after the Russian defense minister signed an order on the reorganization of the 14th Army's command, Lebed acquainted with it, he said.

"I believe that if General Lebed wished to come to Tiraspol and direct the process of adjusting the Army's command structures to the quantity of its units, he would be allowed to do so," Vorobyov said.

Karasin Regrets Dniester Walkout From Talks

LD1108131094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1157 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Petr Cheremushkin and Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—The 10th round of Russian-Moldovan talks on military issues, which ended yesterday in Chisinau, produced tangible and positive results, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department, told a briefing at the ministry's press center today. During the talks, a real step was taken towards a mutually acceptable settlement of a range of issues affecting the Russian military forces which are temporarily stationed on Moldovan territory.

At the same time, Karasin expressed bewilderment at the position of the Dniester region representatives, who walked out of the talks on the second day. "Such actions," he stressed, "can be regarded as not constructive. They hinder the process of settling existing problems."

The spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry said "the maximum effort should be made to ensure that the Dniester region joins the accords reached on 10 August in Chisinau." This will facilitate the earliest possible signing of the agreements which have been initialled, he believes.

Lebed Free To Engage in 14th Army Reorganization

MM1208103594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Gamova: "Moscow and Kishinev Decide to Withdraw 14th Army. Tiraspol Does Not Give Consent"]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau]—So Russian military formations are to be withdrawn from Moldavia [Moldova] over three years—a period which takes account of the technical possibilities and the time needed to provide facilities for the troops at their new stationing location. Journalists were told this after the end of the 10th round of talks between the Russian and Moldavian state delegations.

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There is no confidence that the Dniester region, which has repeatedly stated its right to the army's property, would not, in the event of its departure, prevent the withdrawal of hardware and weapons. A blockade of military cargo by the local population is a very likely prospect—even though the Russian delegation stated that every measure would be taken to ensure that Russian control of hardware and weapons would not be lost, ruling out strong-arm action against the inhabitants of the Dniester region. It is planned to synchronize the practical steps to withdraw Russian military formations with a political settlement of the Dniester conflict and a definition of the special status of the Dniester region, as enshrined in the adopted agreement. So perhaps nothing will need protecting.

Nonetheless, the Dniester region delegation staged a walkout after having previously participated in the talks. In its statement it cited the fact that its participation in the talks essentially boiled down to its presence—its opinions "were not taken into account, or only insofar as they suited Moldavia or Russia." The Dniester people stressed that they would not therefore be responsible for mplementing the measures planned for their territory.

The situation is difficult, particularly if you consider that 51 percent of the officers and 80 percent of the warrant officers and men of the 14th Army are drawn from among local inhabitants. The Dniester military delegation stressed that it considers Russian military personnel to be part and parcel of the Dniester people and "will not permit the implementation of any agreements and decisions—relating to the withdrawal or disbandment of Russian military formations—that were adopted without consideration for the position and vital interests of the Dniester people and Russian Army servicemen."

In response to an IZVESTIYA question about whether the army's administrative reorganization would be conducted with or without General Lebed's participation, Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, deputy commander of the Russian Ground Forces, said that "nobody has prevented the general from doing so."

"If Gen. Lebed insists or expresses a desire to lead the process of bringing the 14th Army's administrative structures into line with numbers in existing military formations," he will not be refused.

As for the officers' future, some of them—as was stated at a press conference—will be pensioned off; the others will, if they so wish, be given an opportunity to serve in Russia. Here are the figures which the general gave IZVESTIYA—129 officers have expressed a desire to continue to continue serving with the Russian Army, 71 wish to be discharged after receiving housing, and seven intend to remain in Moldavia.

Treaty With Ukraine May Be Signed in Oct

LD1108144394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin told journalists before flying to Dubna that a friendship and cooperation treaty with Ukraine would be signed in early October when he visits Kiev. He said that officials had done a good job on the treaty and that his recent telephone talk with his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kuchma also convinced him that the drafting of the treaty would be completed soon.

Dubinin-led Delegation Arrives in Kiev for Talks

LD1108144894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] A Russian Government delegation led by special envoy Yuriy Dubinin arrived in Kiev on August 11. The delegation will hold talks on the drafting of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia.

Dubinin said he had arrived in Kiev in a good mood and hoping for constructive work. "We need to put on paper what has developed over many decades," he said.

According to INTERFAX-UKRAINE, the two sides intend to discuss concrete provisions for the treaty between the two countries, including the provision on dual citizenship.

Ukrainian legislation does not provide for the granting of dual citizenship for the republic's inhabitants. But some Russian politicians insist on including the provision in the treaty.

It is expected that Dubinin will make a statement to journalists on August 12 on the results of the talks.

Adamishin Says Tajikistan Situation 'Deteriorating'

LD1108133694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin said in an interview with Interfax that the situation in Tajikistan is deteriorating and that the former Soviet republic is on the brink of the second spiral of civil war.

Adamishin said this was a result of the Tajik opposition resorting to military action to achieve its goals.

Adamishin said military force could not solve the conflict.

"If the opposition is dissatisfied with the present political process it must try other avenues open to it. It can turn to the UN, Western countries and, finally, Russia. However, the opposition has almost ceased talking with Moscow. It is moving towards war," Adamishin said.

Adamishin said he considers it necessary for the government and the opposition to conclude a cease-fire agreement, even if only a temporary one, in order to prevent a second spiral of war in Tajikistan.

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"The authorities could free political prisoners (there are just over 20 of them in Tajikistan) which they have already promised to do, and declare an amnesty," Adamishin added.

Adamishin said he was dissatisfied with UN actions. "In Haiti, for instance, the UN acts with much more urgency and persistence. The UN envoy here, Ramires Piris-Ballon, has not been to Dushanbe since January. People in Dushanbe are beginning to think, and probably not without reason, that the UN is more likely to encourage the opposition than the government," Adamishin said.

Adamishin said he had recommended that Piris-Ballon correct the UN position.

Russian-Kazakh Commission Discusses Baykonur Base

LD1208083394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—A special Russian-Kazakh commission has been working these days at the Baykonur spaceport on practical implementation of the agreement on "principles and requirements for Baykonur spaceport utilization" and on the preparation of the spaceport for winter.

Representatives of eleven Russian ministries and departments had been placed on the commission by the Russian president and the prime minister.

The Baykonur agreement was signed on March 28 of this year and ratified by the two countries' parliaments in July. Now the task is to make the agreement work and to draw an accord on the lease of Baykonur to Russia. The Russian and Kazakh experts have finished alternative drafts of the latter accord. It is scheduled for consideration by official delegations of the two countries in September.

Now, as the dispute over the Baykonur's status is about to be settled, hardships of the spaceport are coming to the foreground. Last winter, many homes in Leninsk, the urban centre of the space facility, suffered from irregular supplies of heat, fuel, water and power shortages. Locals say the town will be unable to stand another such winter, nor will the spaceport be served adequately by this town residents.

Another challenge is the irregular financing of Baykonur under Russia's budget scheme. In future, the spaceport maintenance will be done on a shared basis by the Russian military space forces and the Russian space agency. The logic behind it is that the Russian space sector has in fact split into civil and military segments.

Foreign Ministry Briefing on FRY, Libya, Karabakh

LD1108153594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: report by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] Moscow considers it illogical to continue the sanctions against Belgrade. The Russian Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said in an interview with Interfax today that Belgrade had taken a courageous position in response to the rejection of the international plan by Bosnian Serbs. "In fact, Belgrade applied to sanctions against them. Given such a situation it would at least be illogical to continue the international sanctions against Belgrade," Karasin added.

Karasin said that any practical actions aimed at settling conflicts must be encouraged by the international community. He said that Russia is acting more energetically on this direction when working with representatives of the world community. "The foreign ministers are maintaining permanent contacts. We work not only within the scope of the contact group and the permanent members of the UN Security Council. We also discuss the problem with the non-permanent members of the UN Security Council, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and take into account the position of the Islamic Conference organization. On the whole, we understand the positions of each other," Karasin added.

Karasin said that Moscow had paid attention to the information on the continuing provocations in Bosnia and Herzegovina also on the territory to the north of Sarajevo carried out by the Moslem- Croatian party. "The clear warning made by the UN Defense Forces in ex-Yugoslavia seems to be founded and deserves attention," he added.

The UN Defense Forces warned Bosnian Serbs and Moslems that the UN could use NATO air forces if they do not put an end to the military actions in the 20-kilometer security zone around Sarajevo. This was the first warning addressed to both Bosnian Serbs and Moslems.

Moscow believes that the situation involving the Lockerbie affair has changed somewhat since the moment sanctions were imposed on Libya.

The chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigory Karasin has said that "the Libyan leadership has advanced a number of compromise proposals, welcomed by a number of states and authoritative international organizations".

"True, these proposals do not lift all the problems, let alone bring about a final solution. However, these signs of rationalism can facilitate the search for a settlement

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on the basis of the UN Security Council's resolutions and with due regard for the further march of events", Karasin said.

The United Nations Security Council considered the questions of sanctions against Libya on August 5 and left them intact.

Russia hopes for the success of negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh, being held in Moscow with the mediation of the Russian presidential representative Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department chief Grigoriy Karasin has said.

As was reported earlier, the Moscow talks are expected to produce a major political agreement to settle the Karabakh conflict.

Karasin refused to reveal any details before the talks were over, saying that "the diplomats are as no less superstitious than test pilots".

At the same time he made it clear that sending Russian peace-keepers to Nagorno-Karabakh was one of the possibilities on the agenda.

The US President Bill Clinton said recently that the Americans would not object to the deployment of Russian peace keepers in the area of the Karabakh conflict if both Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to the measure and the CSCE authorized the operation. Karasin said that the negotiations were apparently revolving around that "if".

"If the result is positive, further progress would be guaranteed", he added.

Moscow Rejects Swedish Protest on Spy Case

LD1208081994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0720 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Sweden's protest concerning the "Stig Bergling case", in which the authorities of the now defunct Soviet Union were involved, cannot be accepted by Russia. A communique issued by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry which has just been received by ITAR-TASS, says that Oleg Grinevskiy, the Russian ambassador to Sweden, informed the Swedish Foreign Ministry of this yesterday. [passage omitted]

The Swedish side believes that more recently S.Bergling spied in other countries, taking orders not only from the Soviet but also from the Russian intelligence services.

Moscow Urges Iraq To Comply With UN Resolutions

LD1108140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By Diplomatic correspondents of Itar-Tass Petr Cheremyshkin and Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—Questions concerning a post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf were discussed in the course of consultations at the Russian Foreign Ministry with Iraqi Deputy Foreign Iraq Riyadh al-Qaysi. This was announced today at a briefing at the press centre on Zubovskiy Boulevard by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the department of information and the press of the diplomatic department.

In the course of the consultations, the Russian side expressed itself in favor of the need for Baghdad to fulfil all the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, above all the clear and unequivocal recognition of the sovereignty of Kuwait and its international border enshrined in Security Council Resolution 833, and also an explanation of the fate of Kuwaiti subjects who have disappeared without a trace. In the opinion of the Russian Foreign Ministry, this would promote the creation of a favorable climate for a review in the Security Council of the mode of sanctions and Iraq's return to the international community with full rights.

Russian-Iraqi Consultations Conclude

JN1108124394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1046 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (INA)—The second round of Iraqi-Russian consultations on bilateral relations and on coordinating both countries' positions on a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest has concluded at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi [Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary], who led the Iraqi side, told an Iraqi News Agency correspondent in Moscow that in the second round, which began by holding a meeting with Russian Acting Foreign Minister Ivanov, they exchanged views on joint action at the UN Security Council and the steps to be taken with regard to implementing the Security Council resolutions and lifting the unfair economic blockade on Iraq in addition to issues concerning the traditional relations between both countries.

Al-Qaysi explained that he held a series of meetings with technical specialists at the Russian Foreign Ministry. He also held a second meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov. Most of the meetings focused on issues pertaining to agreement on the arrangements for a joint move at the Security Council in order to lift the economic blockade.

Al-Qaysi, who arrived in Moscow on Monday, held an expanded meeting with his Russian counterpart Kolokolov on Tuesday. They discussed issues pertaining to Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions. Al-Qaysi said the atmosphere of his talks with the Russian officials was extremely cordial and reflected the two sides' eagerness to reach mutual understanding on the issues raised for discussion.

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Moscow To Set Up Oil Consortium for Iraq

LD1108133894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Russia will set up a consortium of oil and export companies for a joint oil project in Iraq, an official from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations told the Petroleum Information Agency today.

The consortium will include the Russian association Zarubezhneft, LUKoil Company, Rosneftegazstroi, and Mashinoimport.

Iraq cover the cost of the $2-$2.5 billion project by exporting oil and petroleum product under a protocol signed by Russia's Ministry of Fuel and Energy and Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and Iraqi Oil Ministry officials at talks in Iraq in early July.

A joint Russian-Iraqi venture will be set up to develop the West Kurna deposit (north Iraq), upgrade Iraqi oil refineries, further develop the North Rumeila field (north Iraq), drill deep exploration and production wells in various regions in Iraq, lay an oil pipeline, and supply equipment for the Iraqi oil industry.

Iraq said it supports the development of mutually beneficial economic relations with Russia in the oil industry.

Meanwhile, the two Russian ministries have asked Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to help the consortium with the project before a UN embargo on trade with Iraq is lifted and help put the agreements into action after the embargo is lifted.

Iran Trains Pilots for Russian-Made Combat Planes

LD1208105094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0958 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran August 12 TASS—The first group of pilots of Iranian air force's Russian-made Su-24 fighter-bombers has completed training here. The newspaper ETTELAAT reported on Thursday that a ceremony was held in the Tehran pilot-training school to award military pilot diplomas also to flyers who have been trained to pilot Russian fighter-bombers MiG-29.

The Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran has several tens of aircraft of both types which were delivered in the early 1990's.

During the Iran-Iraq war, the Iraqi Air Force had tangible supremacy over the Iranian aircraft. This is why when combat activities came to an end Tehran began to modernise its air forces and turned to Russia for help.

Syria Said To Hold Key to Near East Solution

MM1208112094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Manki Ponomarev: "Near East: Too Early To Talk About Breakthroughs, But the Progress Is Indisputable"]

[Text] Even quite recently the announcement of a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat would have ranked as a world sensation and occupied a very prominent place in various countries' newspapers. But now it is already being ranked as routine. And this fact indicates better than many words that there have been appreciable changes in the Near East of late.

True, there is still a long way to go to a full peace settlement. And the Israeli-PLO agreement to introduce Palestinian self-rule in the Jericho region on the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, known as "Gaza-Jericho First," the recently signed Israeli-Jordanian declaration putting an end to the years-long state of war between these countries, and the now customary meetings between Israeli and Arab leaders are still by no means full peace. Shots are still ringing out and bombs exploding in the Near East; the Israeli Air Force occasionally carries out retaliatory strikes on South Lebanese settlements; and people are dying, mainly innocent civilians.

But the acute situation that was characteristic of this region for decades is no longer in evidence. The recent irreconcilable enemies are meeting around the negotiating table with increasing frequency, seeking ways to find a civilized solution to the most complex problems. Thursday's meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat demonstrated this once again.

This was the first time that such a meeting had been held on Israeli territory, in the vicinity of the Eretz checkpoint on the border with the Gaza Strip. The discussion covered not only the whole spectrum of relations between Israel and the Palestinian autonomous formation but also a far broader range of issues. The head of the Israeli Government briefed 'Arafat on the substance of the accords reached with King Husayn of Jordan in late July during talks in Washington. Moreover he particularly underlined that the rapprochement with Jordan will not be detrimental to Palestinian interests. An accord was reached to hold talks regarding the transfer of additional powers to the Palestinians and on elections in Gaza and on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

On the eve of the meeting observers voiced concern because Israel's recognition of Jordan's exclusive right to guardianship of Jerusalem's Muslim holy places is arousing hostility among Palestinian leaders. 'Arafat himself proposed immediately beginning a discussion of the question of the status of this city, which should in his view be the capital of an independent Palestinian state. But, as ITAR-TASS reported, during the meeting in Eretz it was decided to avoid sharp statements on this acute question. What is more, the Palestinian leader publicly repudiated the statement made by his comrade-in-arms, Qaddumi, who called for the "destruction of Israel" in a recent radio interview.

The results of the meeting in Eretz inspire hope that the difficulties experienced by the Palestinian autonomous

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formation will be successfully overcome. More progress was undoubtedly made there toward a final peace settlement in the Near East. But the key to solving this problem now lies with Syria.

Israel is already holding talks with Syria although as yet without a fitting result. However, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has just visited Damascus, believes that a basis already exists for progress in the Syrian-Israeli area. In particular, the terms for the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Syria's Golan Heights have already been examined although the sides' positions are still far from rapprochement. But nevertheless thoughtful analysts point to major changes in the approach taken by Israel and Syria, as well as Lebanon, to the process of reaching a definitive peace settlement in the region.

Afghan Envoy Charges Uzbek, Pakistani Interference

LD1108130794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0752 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The main feature of the present situation in Afghanistan is that the country is, as it were, divided into two camps. One side is well aware of the national priorities of the Afghan people and is fighting for its independent future. The other is represented by armed groupings which have close links with foreign organizations and which receive substantial material assistance from them. They want Afghanistan to be ruled by forces which would suit their foreign patrons, Afghanistan's ambassador to Russia told a KURANTY correspondent in an interview.

Asked to identify the states which are interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs, Abdol Wahab Asefi said: "One can now say bluntly that Pakistani armed groupings are directly involved with internal political processes in our country. Recently, for example, six Pakistanis were killed and another seven captured during a military operation carried out by the Afghan army in the suburbs of Kabul. All these people were taking part on the side of Hekmatyar and Dostam in armed operations against the Afghan Government.

"Furthermore, there is evidence of Uzbekistan's interference in our country's internal affairs. The Uzbek side actively supports paramilitary organizations of Afghan irregulars—the militias."

"Afghanistan is a political sponsor of the inter-Tajik negotiating process," the correspondent said. "What is your assessment of the second, Tehran, round of this dialogue?"

"We are hopeful about the talks between the Tajik Government and opposition, since peace and stability in that country will bring peace to Afghanistan too. Our two states are closely linked to each other. The Afghan leadership is advising the leaders of the Tajik opposition who, in our view, are adopting a constructive stand in the dialogue with Dushanbe," the ambassador stressed.

Karasin Denies Russian Mercenaries in Yemen

MM1108150394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Iraqi Pilots Flying Russian MiG-29's in Yemen"]

[Text] Moscow is denying allegations in the Western press that Russia has sent military pilots to fight on the side of the southerners in Yemen.

Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, told IZVESTIYA:

"The WASHINGTON POST and SUNDAY TIMES reports are not about people who 'just happen' to be fighting in the skies over Yemen, but about Russian pilots— in a squadron of MiG-29's. And this information is presented as though the aircraft and pilots appeared in Yemen virtually with the 'informal sanction' or 'tacit consent' of the Russian Federation authorities. [no closing quotation marks as published]

In accordance with the principled Russian stance, Moscow made a political decision early this year—that is, long before the resumption of hostilities—to suspend deliveries of so-called special property to Yemen. Russia has subsequently given active backing to Resolutions 924 and 931 approved by the UN Security Council and has adopted for scrupulous execution their provisions on the nondelivery of armaments to the warring factions.

The Russian Defense Ministry view was in the same vein. Its spokesman merely added: "The command has issued no orders for our pilots or equipment to be sent to Yemen."

It turns out that the relevant Russian authorities have taken the newspaper accusations seriously. All the facts are being carefully checked. From the information we have received the following picture emerges—there are no and have been no Russian pilots in Yemen (nor can there be any question of mercenaries [v tom chisle rech ne mozhet idti i o nayemnikakh]); preliminary information indicates that the aircraft may have been bought by the South Yemenis through Bulgaria; the Russian-made fighters are being flown by Iraqi military pilots.

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Political Issues

Cabinet Approves Federal Government Bill

LD1108132494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Russia's Cabinet approved a federal government bill Thursday, which is to be elaborated within two weeks and be submitted to the president and then to the Duma for debate.

According to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, government work presupposes immense responsibility and at the same time effective leverage. However, he ruled out any return to the former administrative distribution system and pointed to the need for real opportunity to influence economic processes.

When Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov outlined the bill, he explained that "it regulates work by the government as the highest body of executive power in a presidential republic."

The bill prohibits Cabinet members from holding other posts in central and local administrations, in institutions, public and other organizations and bars them from entrepreneurial activity and lobbyism.

However, it allows them to carry out research and to teach.

Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said if this clause takes effect, five of the current deputy premiers will have to be sacked right away. He explained that these included himself and Aleksandr Shokhin as combining the posts of deputy prime minister with ministerial jobs, as well as Sergey Shakhray as a political party leader.

The Supreme Arbitration Court Chairman Veniamin Yakovlev strongly argued against a provision according to which government decisions are not subject to appeal in court, except decisions on human rights and freedoms. He stressed that this clause ran counter to several federal laws. At the same time he voiced confidence that standard Cabinet acts can be deliberated in court at central and local level alike.

Kalmykov accepted the need to rewrite some bill provisions and announced that the status of ministries would be determined in yet another federal government law, the draft of which is already available.

High-Level Corruption Seen Hindering Crime Control

MK1208083994 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Nikita Gololobov report in the "Opinion" column under general headline: "Two Months Ago, Russian President Boris Yeltsin Declared an All-Out War on Crime. The Internal Affairs Ministry Believes that the Deadlock Has Been Broken. How Justified Is This Optimism?"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Sixty days is quite a sufficient term to sum up at least the intermediary results of this—as it was announced—decisive measure, especially considering that the subject and content of the edict concern all of us: common voters and taxpayers. Incidentally, the leadership of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry promised us that in two months society will feel visible results of the crime control effort. They have been felt.... During these two months the number of contract killings has grown 1.5 times. The extortion racket in commercial structures has been rampant. According to the Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Russian Main Protection Directorate, the number of terrorist threats against statesmen, politicians, and news media people has increased substantially. [passage omitted]

Can corruption be fought in the first place as long as the incumbent government—a source of protectionism—is in power? Judging by its actions, it is not always clear whose interests it represents: Russia's or Gazprom's together with [oil company] Lukoil's. It seems that these protectionist links cannot be broken even by the president given that former Gazprom official and now government chief of staff Vladimir Kvasov continues to remain in his post, and is pretty confident about his future. And this after Boris Yeltsin's publicly promising to deal with him. Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko has shown himself a kind of Far Eastern feudal lord, in company with his protege—the acting mayor of Vladivostok—terrorizing the independent press. Materials on this count have been sent to the Prosecutor's Office and to the president, and so what?

If things go on like this, many of Russia's regions will turn into a kind of a Central African empire with all the consequences that would entail for the anti-corruption struggle, and for the institutions of democracy as a whole. [passage omitted]

Will the president and society at large begin a real attack on corruption? As long as the authorities are corrupt, there is no use trying to fight organized crime: Nothing will come of it. The fate of each of us, as well as the political future of Boris Yeltsin himself, depend on this.

MMM To Resume Functioning After Mavrodiy's Release

LD1108175894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Mikhail Zakharov]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—A rally was staged at 17:00 on Thursday outside the Moscow police headquarters, where the president of Russia's troubled investment fund MMM is now kept in a detention cell. The rally was timed to coincide with MMM President Sergey Mavrodiy's birthday.

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The Union of MMM Shareholders, which organized the action, announced at 17:30 that the rally was to be held at the central entrance to the Gorkiy Park following the ban imposed at the last moment.

It was also announced through the loudspeaker that all congratulations and flowers brought by an estimated 1,500 protesters would be passed on to Mavrodiy.

At 17:45, the rally reopened outside the Gorkiy Park in downtown Moscow. When asked by BUSINESS-TASS when the investment fund would resume normal functioning, MMM spokeswoman Yelena Afanasyeva said it would happen as soon as Mavrodiy was released from prison.

The spokeswoman also assured the demonstrating shareholders that the commission considering applications from MMM investors was continuing its work, despite some reports by the mass media.

Investigation Leader Opposed to Release

MK1108150994 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Rubnikovich: "Mavrodiy Is Disliked on Petrovka"]

[Text] Speaking at yesterday's press conference at the Internal Affairs Main Administration [IAMA] on the MMM Joint-Stock Company affair, Vitaliy Stepantsev, head of the investigation team of the IAMA investigation department, stated that the arrested man, Sergey Mavrodi, declines to give any evidence. This leads the investigators to believe that Mr. Mavrodi has things to conceal. On 16 August, at the end of the 10-day detention period, a charge must be brought against him, or he must be set free. At present, Mavrodi is regularly visited by the lawyer and investigator. Mr. Mavrodiy's health is being monitored by IAMA remand cell medical unit specialists. He, however, does not like the food served in the remand cell at 38 Petrovka Street, and asks for a transfer to another remand cell. The head of the team investigating Mavrodi's case has stated that if the authorities order M...odi's release, he is not going to comply under any circumstances. It is rumored that fearing the social tensions around MMM, the authorities may decide on Mavrodiy's release. Instructions to this effect can only be issued by the prosecutor.

No Deputy Appointed in Yeltsin's Absence

LD1208100594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—At present the "Rossiya" river motorship with Russian President Boris Yeltsin aboard is heading on to Nizhnyy Novgorod. The president is busy working at a package of decrees, Sergey Filatov, presidential chief of staff, told ITAR-TASS on Friday.

Yeltsin has left no one to stand in for him officially in the Kremlin, because the motorship is equipped with radar and space communications, Filatov added.

Throughout his working tour, Yeltsin will be supplied with papers drawn up for signing.

Yeltsin is to arrive in Nizhnyy Novgorod on saturday, August 13.

Afterwards, according to the Russian president, he intends to stop over at a venue near the city of Kazan (Tatarstan, the Russian Federation) where he intends to "meet with representatives of local authorities of the volga region".

Before the set-off, Yeltsin told newsmen that he intends to visit the "Volzhskiy" tube-producing works, the "Rostselmash" agricultural machinery makers and other corporate industrial strongholds for the purpose of solving their problems which otherwise this year's harvest may be called into question.

A busy working programme has been scheduled for each day of the voyage; I am setting off to familiarize myself with the course of the reforms rather than to have a rest, it is only at night that I will have the time to relax, Yeltsin said.

Yavlinskiy Denies Plans To Join Government

MK1208075894 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Yavlinskiy Denial"]

[Text] The press service of Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the "Yabloko" State Duma faction, has denied a story carried in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on 10 August about Mr. Yavlinskiy's readiness "to work in the government starting today." Mr. Yavlinskiy has authorized his press service to announce that "he is not considering the possibility of working in the present government, and is not going to hand over the votes of his voters to anyone (to the Russian Federation president, in the coming elections, in exchange for a ministerial portfolio - "NG")."

Rutskoy: Russia Within USSR Borders Party's Goal

LD1108174194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1441 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Report on news conference by former Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by correspondent Kirill Shakhnovich on 11 August; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

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[Excerpt] For the first time after his release from Lefortovo prison Aleksandr Rutskoy held a news conference today. Here is an excerpt from his address recorded by our correspondent Kirill Shakhnovich.

[Rutskoy] "The strategic goal of the ascendancy [Derzhava] social-patriotic movement is a revival of the great-power Russia within the borders of the USSR through a procedure when a people expresses its free will to join the Russian Federation. If Estonia, Latvia, the Baltics as a whole, or some other republic does not wish to join the Russian Federation—let them be, let them stay separate. But all relations should be built in accordance with international norms. All this transparency (of borders), which makes it possible to rob Russia, must be scrapped.

So, after the ascendancy social-patriotic movement has come to power all the borders will simply be closed. To date, 562,000 applications for membership of the ascendancy social-patriotic movement have been received from nine regions. This figure makes it possible to estimate the movement's prospects. If after two months of my vigorous activity and that of my comrades aimed at creating and forming the social-patriotic movement so many applications have arrived from nine regions, the movement's prospects can be estimated. In addition, we expect whole collectives to join the movement too, that is, political parties, movements, organizations.

To date, the social-patriotic movement includes the Russian Christian-Democratic movement, led by Aksyuchits, and the non-radical, I stress, part of the National Salvation Front. Other public and political associations and parties have voiced their desire to join this organization, too. I believe that by January 1995 we will be ready to hold a congress of the social-patriotic movement in order to set up a Russia-wide large-scale public and political movement, the Ascendancy social-patriotic movement."

[Shakhnovich] These two minutes contain the main information from Rutskoy's 90-minute news conference. I am afraid that five years on his speeches will resemble those of Brezhnev. He repeated four times that he is writing a book, regards himself as vice president, the snipers [during the October uprising] belonged not to him but to the KGB. He lives in a police state which, however, does not prevent him from saying that he has already won one law suit, tomorrow he is starting another one, then yet another one, and he is confident of winning since there is law. Incidentally, the laws of a police state do not prevent Aleksandr Vladimirovich travelling around the country and holding news conferences.

He said a good deal about morals but now he is retracting his words said while in the White House—there is a recording—that he would not leave it alive. [words indistinct] He has always advocated a peaceful solution to Chechnya, both now and before. It appears he had not said earlier that to solve everything at once a flying squadron should be sent to Chechnya. It was said at the start of the news conference that everywhere his speeches are met with standing ovations but later opinions differ. He regards the black shirts with swastikas from his entourage as simply people with runic symbols on the sleeves. Fascism is alien to Russia. [passage omitted]

Third Anniversary of August Coup To Be Marked

LD1208105694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1020 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 23 TASS—The third anniversary of the August 1991 coup will be marked with a conference, the deputy head of the Presidential Analytic Centre, Mark Urnov, told ITAR-TASS.

The conference will be organised by the Russian president's administration.

All the leaders of the 1991 coup were amnestied last February by the State Duma. Only one member of the coup committee, Valentin Varennikov, the ex-commander of the Soviet land forces, refused to accept the amnesty and demanded a retrial. The court announced "a verdict of not guilty" for him on Thursday.

According to Urnov, in spite of the fact that none of the 1991 coup leaders has been punished, a new coup is impossible under current realities. "Russia has no real pretender to play the role of a Napoleon or a Pinochet. Besides, the present local and Moscow elites are interested in retaining the status quo, because any political change might lead to changes in the political elite", the official said.

Urnov believes that the authorities should observe all democratic procedures and accept "the holiness of elections" as the only means to change power and prevent crises which might lead to another coup.

Economic Issues

Pension Rise To Be Offset By Other Budget Cuts

MK1108155094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Pensions To Be Raised 1.51 Times by Cutting All Budget Expenditure Items"]

[Text] The phased increase of pensions by 1.51 times by October, which has not been provided for in the budget, will be financed by cutting all other budget expenditures, except for the state debt repayment item. A draft law on the subject is being drawn up by the government and will be passed to the State Duma in October for consideration. This was announced at yesterday's news conference at the Social Security Ministry devoted to the problem of pension payments. The upcoming draft law points out that the Russian Government will firmly

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adhere to its economic policy and will not permit unsecured money emissions and, therefore, a new surge of inflation.

$300 Million Lost Annually Through Oil Sales to CIS

LD1108201194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1949 GMT 11 Aug 94

[BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—According to the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry figures, Russia is suffering an annual loss of about 300 million U.S. dollars ensuring shipment of oil exports from certain former Soviet republics to foreign at the cost of its own exports. The Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry told BUSINESS-TASS today that Russian oil export pipeline systems are working at their maximum capacity for a number of past years.

At the same time, in a bid to maintain its presence on the markets of neighbouring republics, Russia is forced to go on making concessions and ensure increase in their exports. For example, it became known to BUSINESS-TASS that a contract was recently signed between Kazakhstan and Russia, in compliance with which oil exports by the "Tengizchevroil" joint enterprise has increased from 30 thousand to 50 thousand barrels per day (about 4 to 7 thousand tonnes). This means an increase of oil exports of 0.6 to 1 million tonnes from Kazakhstan alone by the end of the current year.

Russian oil exports to foreign countries over the first 6 months of 1994 totalled about 42.5 million tonnes only.

No Immediate End to Non-Payments Crisis Seen

LD1108213094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1459 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 11 Aug—It will be impossible to end the crisis of non-payments in Russia in the near future, Aleksandr Livshyts, the Russian president's adviser for economic issues, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today on the eve of a routine meeting of the government commission for eliminating non-payments. He is a member of the commission.

According to Livshyts, the next package of presidential economic edicts devoted to the problem of non-payments currently prepared by the government will only partly defuse the situation in an endless chain of enterprises' mutual debts. The edicts will be aimed, first of all, at increasing control over cash flow, regulating the funds that enterprises use for consumption, including wages, as well as stepping up punitive sanctions to be used against enterprises that have funds on their accounts (including abroad) but fail to pay off their debts.

In addition, the presidential edicts will enable the government to give investment and conversion credits to enterprises at the expense of the Central Bank's resources, something especially important for factories of the military-industrial complex, which have been left practically without funds after the volume of defense orders have dropped sharply. The draft presidential edicts plan other measures, too. [passage omitted]

Military & Space Issues

Three GLONASS Satellites Launched From Baykonur

LD1108194194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] At 19:27 Moscow time Thursday, the Russian Military Space Forces launched three spacecrafts, to supplement the GLONASS global navigation dual purpose system, from Baykonur cosmodrome (Kazakhstan).

The press service of the military space forces told Interfax that the satellites had been launched by means of the Russian heavy booster Proton-K. According to the press center, the satellite will be at in geostationary orbit at the height of 19,100 kilometers from Earth.

The GLONASS system, used by the Russian Armed Forces since 1993, can determine coordinates of any moving or stationary object with an accuracy of 100 meters.

The International Sea Organization and ICAO have passed a decision to recognize GLONASS, along with the analogous American system NAVSTAR, as the basis for navigational support of international sea and air transportation.

With the newly-launched satellites, there are 19 in operation at the moment, 18 of them are working ones and one is a reserve satellite. The GLONASS system, composed of 24 spacecrafts, is to be completed by 1995.

The GLONASS satellites have been developed by the scientific-industrial association of Applied Mechanics (Krasnoyarsk-26) and produced by the airspace association Polyot (Omsk).

Baltic Fleet Receives New Air-Cushion Craft

LD1008210394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Baltic Fleet has received a Zubr-class amphibious warfare air-cushion craft, the largest in the world. It was built in St. Petersburg. The craft is capable of moving both across sea and land. Nowhere in the world is there a similar craft, not even on a designer desk. The Pentagon believes that it would be cheaper to

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give Russian shipyards $10 billion to modify [pereprofilirovaniye] their output than to try to catch up with Russia in this field.

Regional Affairs

Dudayev Signs Edict on Mobilization in Chechnya

LD1108172694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1519 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—Dzhokhar Dudayev has announced general mobilization of the male population of Chechnya. The order will be carried out from 11 to 16 August. Dudayev's edict, which was signed today, says that "first, second, and third echelon reserves" are to be called up, i.e. virtually all those liable for military service. This is stated in a Chechenpress report, which reached ITAR-TASS from Groznyy today.

The edict alleges that the Chechen leader has taken this bellicose step because of "the large-scale propaganda campaign unleashed by Russia, aimed at splitting the Chechen nation and triggering off a new interethnic conflict, and because of the concentration of forces all around the CRI [Chechen Republic-Ichkeria], which poses a real military threat to the Chechen state." It says the mobilization is in accordance with the decision of the congress of the Chechen nation, which met on 10 August in Groznyy.

In accordance with the same congress decision, the edict imposes a state of emergency on Upper Terek district from 12 August.

Details of Mobilization Edict

LD1108173294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] President Dzokhar Dudayev signed on Thursday a decree on general mobilization of the Chechen population and read it out (at 5 P.M. moscow time) at the closed-door session of the Cabinet of Ministers in Groznyy. This was done in line with the resolution of the Congress of Chechnya's Peoples adopted Wednesday.

The decree envisages the full mobilization of the reserves of the first, second and third echelons. The mobilization, says the decree, is to be completed before August 16. According to official Groznyy, during the mobilization could affect over 300,000 people.

The decree introduces a state of emergency on August 12 in the Nadterechny District of Chechnya.

The decree provides for the "criminal responsibility and arrest" of those who dodge the compliance.

The decree says that it was signed "owing to the propaganda campaign unleashed by Russia and aimed at splitting the Chechen people and unleashing a new bloody inter-ethnic conflict."

The concentration of Russian troops around Chechnya, says the decree, "creates a real military threat to its sovereignty."

The Chechen congress delegates also granted Dudayev the right to announce "gazavat" (a holy war on infidels—"IF"), if the situation aggravates further in the republic.

Moscow Expresses Concern

LD1208141594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1347 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Government today issued the following statement:

"The government of the Russian Federation is concerned over the recent statements and actions of D. Dudayev, president of the Chechen republic, and in particular with the total mobilization of the male population to fight the opposition and to rebuff the aggression allegedly being planned against the Chechen Republic.

"This considerably aggravates the situation in the Northern Caucasus, which is already complicated enough, and signifies an attempt to polarize different population groups in the Chechen Republic and to sow discord, distrust and hatred toward the friendly peoples of Russia.

"In accordance with the constitution of the Russian Federation and proceeding from the principle of equality of nations, the government of the Russian Federation confirms that it does not intend and will not allow the use of force in solving the problems of Chechnya. Russia's President Boris Yeltsin also stated this on 11 August this year.

"At the same time, the Government of the Russian Federation reserves the right to continue taking measures appropriate to the situation so as to remove the threat to the lives and safety of Russian Federation citizens, to protect public peace, to fight crime, and to neutralize armed formations.

"Dzhokhar Dudayev is personally responsible for all the consequences of his latest statements and actions.

"The government of the Russian Federation is interested in full normalization of the situation in the North Caucasus by peaceful constitutional means."

Military Implements Edict

LD1208143894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] In accordance with the presidential decree on total mobilization, Chechnya's military leadership intends to conduct preparatory operations within the next 48 hours and then to start mobilizing the population

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via the regional military commissariats, the headquarters of Chechnya's armed forces told INTERFAX Friday and stressed that the mobilization is to be concluded by August 16.

According to President Dzhokhar Dudayev, Chechnya's mobilization potential is 600,000 men (if men from the reserve, aged 16-65, are called up—INTERFAX) though military experts believe that this amount is greatly exaggerated.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday and Thursday Dudayev met with representatives of the main headquarters of Chechnya's armed forces and commanders of military units. The results of this meeting have not been made public though Dudayev said that they "considered issues related to the defense of the constitutional system and to actions against terrorism."

A closed meeting of Chechen officers was also held in Groznyy on Thursday.

Yeltsin Against Forcible Intervention in Chechnya

LD1108171494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] "Any forcible intervention in Chechnya is unacceptable", President Boris Yeltsin said speaking before flight to the town of Dubna from which he will go on a boat trip down the Volga river.

He said Moscow's restraint from using force had so far helped Russia to avert ethnic clashes. "The whole of the Caucasus will stand up if we break this principle in respect of Chechnya. There will be so much violence and bloodshed that nobody will ever forgive us", Yeltsin said.

The president spoke of ongoing changes in Chechnya amid growing opposition to Dzhokhar Dudayev. "I cannot therefore say that our influence on the situation is nil", he stressed.

Yeltsin is confident that he will be able to sign a friendship and cooperation agreement with Ukraine as he visits Kiev early in October. He said experts on both sides had worked hard over the draft and that this work would be brought to a successful completion as his recent telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had indicated. IF Note: A Russian delegation led by special envoy Yuriy Dubinin is now in Kiev to discuss the preparation of an outline agreement between the two countries. He said he arrived in Kiev in a good mood and expectations for constructive work. "We must try and put on paper what has been built over long years", he said.

It is now known that the two sides will discuss a number of concrete issues including dual citizenship, a point that Russia wants to be included in the agreement though the Ukrainian constitution does not provide for this.

On the latest row over the MMM investment fund, Yeltsin said it would serve a good lesson to "our citizens who will now know that wild promises must be taken with a pinch of salt".

He also stressed that the government had no intention of stepping in or giving any guarantees. "It is all up to the judicial bodies to decide", Yeltsin said.

On the aim of his current regional tour covering Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan and Togliatti on the Volga river and Rostov-na-Donu, the president spoke of wanting to find out how the economic reform was being implemented on the ground. He will visit the Nizhny Novgorod Fair, industrial plants and research centers and meet workers, industrial managers, regional and local government officials.

Yeltsin said he would hold a meeting with leaders of the Volga region including Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev outside the Tatar capital Kazan.

On his other plans, the president spoke of visiting Germany later this month to attend the ceremony of Russian troop withdrawals from that country.

He is also due to meet the Chinese Prime Minister in Moscow on September 3-4.

On September 24, Yeltsin is scheduled to visit Britain and make an extensive speech at the 49th session of the U.N. general Assembly in New York later followed by a formal visit to the United States.

Yeltsin Interviewed on Chechnya Situation

LD1108133994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of Russia is leaving today on a working tour of the Volga. The president told journalists that he will be working by day and taking his leisure in the evening like any ordinary Russian.

During the week Boris Yeltsin is planning to visit the Volga cities of Nizhnyy Novogorod, Rostov-on-Don, and Tolyatti. He should also have a meeting near Kazan with the leaders of the Volga oblasts. It is possible that he will also have a meeting with President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan.

[Yeltsin] This is a planned working visit around Russia to find out how the reforms are going, to meet people, to meet the working class, to meet the country people, to meet the leaders, the directors, those in charge of the oblasts, republics, and krays along the Volga.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think it is possible that Russia will intervene in the Chechnya problem, and if so, under what circumstances?

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[Yeltsin] Intervention by force is impermissible and this must not be done. If we were to apply pressure by force against Chechnya it would arouse the whole Caucasus, there would be such a commotion, there would be so much blood that nobody would ever forgive us. It is absolutely not possible! However, the situation in Chechnya is now changing. The role of the opposition to Dudayev is now increasing. So I would not say that we have not influenced [the situation] at all.

Chechen Troops Will Not Be Sent Against Opposition

LD1208144294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Groznyy government will not send troops to the Nadterechnyy District where the opposition is headquartered any time soon, a senior official of the Chechen presidential staff told INTERFAX.

Meanwhile, Dzhokhar Dudayev imposed emergency rule in the district on August 12. He was empowered to do so by the republic's Congress of Peoples. This is expected to be followed by the appointment of a provisional administration in the Nadterechnyy District.

The official said that the so-called opposition leaders had discredited themselves by their action and statements and the people will "soon send them packing to Moscow."

Chechnya's Nadterechnyy Rayon Reported Calm

LD1208130194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1209 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev and Aleksandr Nechayev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The situation in Chechnya's Nadterechnyy rayon controlled by the Interim Council opposed to Dzhokhar Dudayev is calm. The government formed by the Interim Council is busy working, concentrating mostly on solving urgent economic problems, Ruslan Martagov, spokesman of the Interim Council's press center, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent by telephone.

According to R. Martagov, there have been no active moves against the Interim Council recently despite Dzhokhar Dudayev's decision yesterday to declare general mobilization in Chechnya. According to the press center spokesman, this can be explained by the fact that Dudayev's regime has no real power for this and does not enjoy mass support.

Official Groznyy has been silent so far today and refrained from commenting on the situation in the republic. An ITAR-TASS correspondent failed to get in touch with any representative of Dzhokhar Dudayev's government: nobody answers their telephone.

Dudayev Warns of Possible 'Jihad' Against Russia

LD1108130094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] President Dzhokhar Dudayev has described current Russian-Chechen relations as large-scale Russian aggression against Chechnya.

He said that if this policy continued, Russia would face collapse and an inevitable jihad in the Caucuses with millions of mojahedins ready to fight and to die, if asked to do so. "If Russia tries to solve the Chechen problem by force, the ensuing war will make that in Afghanistan pale into insignificance," Dudayev said in an interview with an Interfax correspondent in Groznyy Thursday.

Asked whether a telephone conversation between him and the Russian president was possible in this situation, Dudayev said that such a conversation would be meaningless.

"What should I tell Yeltsin in this situation? He is hardly likely listen to me," Dudayev said.

He said problems should be settled by agreements rather than telephone calls, however, "Russia is not ready to sign any such agreements."

He said Chechnya had been sustaining huge losses by having virtually frozen its oil refineries, but Groznyy still hopes for economic cooperation with Russia.

He said that the republic's oil refining complex could supply oil products across the former Soviet Union. "If these capacities are needed, let them say they are needed. We will use them jointly. However, Russia does not say anything," Dudayev said.

The same, he said, holds true of a single ruble zone. "In the conditions of a total blockade in banking and otherwise, we are ready to introduce our own currency, however, again we are waiting (for a possible compromise from Moscow - IF)," he remarked.

Chechens Can 'Take Care of' Russian Troops

LD1108133294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Addressing a national convention in the Chechen capital Groznyy Wednesday [10 August], President Dzhokhar Dudayev urged Chechens to unite and called the opposition leaders "a treacherous breed of stooges."

The convention sentenced the opposition leaders in the Nadterechny region to death in absentia. The area was declared a state of emergency zone where a provisional administration will be appointed.

On the possible introduction of Russian troops to Chechnya, Dudayev said: "Let them come with armor and aircraft, we'll take that for ourselves. We need hardware."

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"The whole world dreaded Soviet power, however when Soviet troops entered Afghanistan, they proved powerless. The same will happen in Chechnya."

The convention empowered Dudayev to resort to any means anywhere in Chechnya to maintain law and order, and safeguard the republic's interests and integrity. He was also empowered to declare "jihad on all the unholy in the event of further tension and urge Moslems everywhere to joint the jihad."

Meanwhile, the premier of Chechnya's self-declared popular trust government Yaragi Mamodayev, the former deputy premier in Dudayev's cabinet, has called the convention "a pro-Dudayev" gathering, stressing that those there have no power to speak on the people's behalf.

Meanwhile, the opposition, based at Znamenskoye, a village in the Nadterechny region, reports that the anti-Dudayev army has been constantly growing in number.

According to an opposition spokesman, 16 Chechen interior ministry officers drove into the Nadterechny region by motor vehicles with two mounted machine guns Monday.

Asked about Wednesday's convention in Groznyy, he described it as not surprising and dismissed its decisions as unbalanced.

He said Dudayev had passed a death sentence on his opponents long time ago and would carry it out given the chance. "However, he does not have such a possibility," he added.

Opposition Leader: No Plans for Military Actions

LD1108131994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Ibragim Suleimenov, the leader of a Chechen armed opposition group, has announced he will no longer carry out any military and political activities aimed against the present leaders in Groznyy.

Chechen Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said Suleimenov had sent a statement to this effect to the Congress of the Chechen People which ended in Groznyy on Wednesday. Suleimenov said he was acting in the name of the supreme interests of the republic and its sovereignty.

The Congress of Chechen People sentenced the opposition leaders in the Nadterechny Region to death in absentia and urged their armed supporters to hand over their arms guaranteeing them "the mercy of the law." Otherwise, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the congress, "those who continue their sabotage activities will be condemned and despised by the entire nation," the resolution says.

Opposition Supporters Ready To Stem Attack

LD1208144794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Supporters of the Chechen opposition's Provisional Council, based in the Nadterechnyy region, are ready to rebuff any aggression. "All odds are in their favor," a council spokesman told INTERFAX Friday.

He said that in the region's center, Znamenskoye, volunteers have been signing up daily upon arrival from all over Chechnya, including the uphills, considered to be General Dudayev's stronghold.

Some of the volunteers (mainly law enforcement officers and army combatants) have arms of their own. The rest have been armed at Znamenskoye. Only reservists or draftees are eligible for the volunteer corps. Each volunteer must hand in his passport, a military service certificate, and a reference from a respected fellow citizen.

Commenting on Dudayev's statement that he can recruit 600,000 troops, the spokesman dismissed it as sheer bluff and claimed that "there really are no more than 2,000 men on Dudayev's side, the rest would go home right after getting arms."

The spokesman ruled out any large-scale fighting in Chechnya since Dudayev is not strong enough for it.

Chechnya Force 'Could Exceed Half a Million'

MM1108142194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the general heading: "Chechen National Congress Voted for 'Holy War'"]

[Text] As of 1300 hours on 11 August, Dudayev had not yet issued a directive on general mobilization—even though an ITAR-TASS correspondent in Groznyy had given warning of the possibility in the morning. M. Merzhoyev, the president's representative in the Chechen Armed Forces, told IZVESTIYA's correspondent that the ranks of the republic army have been reinforced by two battalions of home guards mobilized in the course of the "Summer-94" planned exercises. Following a possible announcement of a general mobilization, the president's representative said, the army's strength would increase to 350,000 men between the ages of 18 and 50. Taking into account the fact that juveniles, old men, and women would certainly swell its ranks, its strength could exceed half a million.

Dudayev Supporters Said Receiving Arms at Mosques

LD1208101594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Quoting reports from Cossacks in Chechnya's Naurskiy Rayon, RIA says that automatic weapons are being distributed at mosques to Dudayev's supporters. The press center of the Chechen government formed by the Interim Council regards this as proof that Dudayev is deliberately gearing up for a conflict in order to provoke Russia into an armed clash. According to unverified reports, groups of gunmen wearing Cossack uniform—

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Chechens apparently—have been spotted in Naurskiy Rayon. Their aim is to provoke the Cossacks into armed clashes.

Russia Reportedly Supplying Arms to Opposition

LD1108143994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Head of the Chechen National Security Department Sultan Geliskhanov blamed Russia for delivering arms to the opposition forces in the Nadterechnyy region of Chechnya.

He said that on Wednesday and Thursday Russian helicopters had several times crossed the Chechen border in order to deliver arms. "Unarmed Cossacks will later come to the Nadterechnyy region, take arms and will be considered as militants of the Chechen opposition," Geliskhanov told journalists in Groznyy.

When asked by INTERFAX if Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev will use his new powers given such a situation, Geliskhanov said "we will try to settle the situation by political means until the last moment comes."

The Congress of the Chechen Peoples at its meeting on Wednesday vested President Dudayev with the authority to declare general mobilization and "a holy war against infidels." In accordance with the resolution adopted by the congress, the Chechen president also has the right to apply to any measures and to use any means in any Chechen region in order to settle the social-political situation and to defend Chechnya's interests and territorial integrity.

The Chechen National Security Department said that deputy chief of the regional law enforcement department Isa Chabayev had been killed in the Nadterechnyy region on Wednesday.

Neighboring States Offer Chechnya Assistance

LD1108214294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] It has been reported to us by Movlen Salamov [Dudayev's aide] that the adjacent republics already intend to render assistance to his country in the face of the threat of Russian intervention.

[Begin Salamov recording] Cables have come in from neighboring Caucasian republics to allow them to send volunteers here. Cables and reports have come in from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, requesting permission to send volunteers as well. For the moment we have not replied to these cables. This will be decided by the military council, but we are reckoning on and are hoping that everything will be resolved by political methods. But we are preparing ourselves. [end recording]

Neighboring Troops 'Not Involved' in Chechnya

MM1108195794 Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Dmitriyev: "'We Are Not Involved Here,' First Deputy Commander of Russian Federation MVD Internal Troops Maintains"]

[Text] "We are in the rayons of North Ossetia and Ingushetia directly adjacent to Chechnya on perfectly legitimate grounds," Lieutenant General Viktor Gafarov, first deputy commander of the Russian Federation MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Internal Troops, told us yesterday. "The state of emergency imposed by the president of Russia is in force here. The situation is unstable. There are lots of embittered gunmen, robbers, and people keen to arouse interethnic passions. There are refugees. Our servicemen have to monitor the situation day and night, maintaining order, and safeguard human lives while risking their own.

"The uneasy and frequently changing situation," Gen. Viktor Gafarov continued his account, "obliges us constantly to maneuver forces and combat resources and to change the location of troop subunits. All this is done strictly by agreement with the local authorities and with representatives of the Presidential Staff. There have been no exercises or concentrations of our troops near the borders of Chechnya, and none is planned. The same, as far as we know, applies to the Army and Border Guard units stationed here. All these statements by Dudayev and his associates are evidently needed by them for some political ends. We, I repeat, are not involved there...."

Dudayev Halts Russian TV Broadcasting in Chechnya

LD1108171994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] In Chechnya, Dzhokhar Dudayev issued an instruction on Thursday to end Russian television broadcasting on the territory of the republic. Earlier, broadcasting had been temporarily disrupted in the evenings only after the local TV went on the air. Dudayev has adopted this decision in accordance with a resolution of the republican people's congress, which was held in Groznyy on Wednesday, Interfax reports.

Chechen Authorities Ask Khasbulatov To Leave

LD1108123494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 8 TASS—Chechen authorities have requested former Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov to leave the republic. The request was made on Thursday morning, President Dudayev's aide Movlen Salamov told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

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According to the aide, the request that Khasbulatov leave was made in accordance with Wednesday's decision by the Chechen People's Congress. According to Salamov, Khasbulatov's current whereabouts are unknown.

Chechen Opposition Leader To Meet With Khasbulatov

LD1208132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1307 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Nechayev]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Umar Avtorkhanov, the head the Provisional Council, formed in opposition to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, plans to meet with Ruslan Khasbulatov, the former speaker of the Russian parliament. These two figures, Dudayev's main opponents, have so far not been able to get together due to their busy schedules, ITAR-TASS was told by telephone on Friday by Ruslan Martagov, spokesman for the Provisional Council.

"They both just do not have any time, since their workdays are scheduled down to the minute", Martagov said, adding that Khasbulatov and Avtorkhanov would need at least two hours for their discussions.

Despite the fact that Chechen authorities on Thursday demanded that Khasbulatov leave the republic, he has refused to do so. According to Martagov, Khasbulatov is either in Groznyy or near it. "He does not intend to leave Chechnya", the Council spokesman added.

Chechen Interim Council Urges Civil Disobedience

LD1208122694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1123 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev and Aleksandr Nechayev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Chechen Interim Council, which is opposed to Dzhokhar Dudayev, today demanded that the president of the republic "quit without bloodshed" and urged the Chechen people to assist in this by unleashing a campaign of civil disobedience.

"The Interim Council, like all of our people, does not want war. Even after it has virtually been declared against us, we are giving Dudayev a chance to quit without bloodshed," a representative of the Interim Council's press center, Ruslan Martagov, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent on the telephone today, quoting a statement which was made today by the council in response to Dudayev's declaration of universal mobilization.

"By making this move (voluntary departure—correspondent's note) Dudayev would be able at least in some way to atone for his guilt before the people," the document says. Otherwise the interim council will talk with the Dudayev regime "not using words of persuasion, but by using the force of the law."

Martagov denied reports in some of the Russian media that Umar Avtorkhanov, the head of the Interim Council, intends allegedly to overthrow Dudayev with the help of Russian troops.

The Interim Council also urged all the people of Chechnya "to isolate Dudayev" and to "refuse to support the criminal regime." "We will see to it that it is not the force of arms but our universal civil disobedience that will force Dudayev and his accomplices to quit their posts," the appeal says.

The Interim Council described the "Congress of the Chechen Nation", which was held the other day, as "the latest farce of Dudayev's last few remaining supporters."

Duma Official Calls For Negotiations in Chechnya

LD1108131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1247 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—All opposing sides in Chechnya should, with Moscow's mediation, immediately sit at the negotiating table, claimed Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the lower chamber Committee on Security.

"Otherwise, we can have on our hands a conflict with devastating consequences", he said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

Favouring political support and economic aid to the Chechen opposition, Ilyukhin warned at the same time against dispatching troops to Chechnya, including Russian forces.

"I believe the opposition has enough forces to prod Dudayev to start peaceful negotiations," the committee chairman noted. He stressed that the Moscow authorities should also seek to achieve this version of developments.

Ilyukhin does not preclude that under the present circumstances when a considerable number of Chechen districts virtually supported Dudayev, he may inflict a blow on the opposition, accusing it of pro-Russian sentiments and playing on sensitive feelings of the Chechen people.

"We should prevent armed clashes between the opposing sides," Ilyukhin said. "I do not imagine that Dudayev can unleash a major war in the north Caucasus: other republics will not support him," said the committee chairman.

However, Dudayev now clearly needs psychosis which would again rivet attention to him, since he is losing the presidential chair."

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Ilyukhin noted that the Chechen Republic is an inalienable part of the Russian Federation. "It is not an independent state, as Dudayev tries to present," he stressed. "Since Chechnya is a part of Russia, we should not be an aloof onlooker of those events which are taking place there now," the committee chairman concluded.

Mamodayev: Congress Decisions To Entail Civil War

LD1108203794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1953 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, August 11 (TASS)—"The resolutions passed by the congress of the Chechen nation on Wednesday actually mark the beginning of a civil war in Chechnya. Dudayev sought for turmoil and he got it", the head of Chechnya's self-styled government of people's confidence, Yaragi Mamodayev, told TASS on Thursday.

According to him, the current situation is extremely complicated and may entail most unpredictable consequences not only for Chechnya, but for the Caucasus and Russia on the whole.

The opposition leader believes that Chechnya now faces a civil war instead of reconciliation.

He went on to say both Wednesday's "pro-Dudayev" congress and the "Avturkhanov" congress in June cannot be regarded as nationwide, since only part of the Chechen people attended them.

As for the provisional council headed by Umar Avturkhanov, Mamodayev labelled it as "a political intrigue engineered by certain Russian leaders". "The republic's real and sensible forces won't participate in the confrontation imposed upon the people", he emphasised.

The opposition leader stressed the need for immediately holding meetings on national reconciliation with the participation of all political forces, including the Dudayev regime and the provisional council. He did not rule out the possibility of forming a coalition government to work during a transition period.

Mamodayev also called to prepare and convene a true national congress with the participation of all clans, political parties and public movements. At this congress, his government is ready to deliver report on its activities and submit its programme for the republic's economic recovery in 1994-99. According to Mamodayev, funds have already been raised to finance the first stage of the programme estimated at 5 billion dollars. The funds are to be provided on a contract basis. The implementation of the project can start as soon as constitutional order is established in Chechnya.

Mamodayev also thinks it very important to work out principles for negotiating with Moscow with due regard for real political, economic and geopolitical interests of both Checnhya and Russia.

Mamodayev Asks Yeltsin To Help Resolve 'Events'

LD1108191894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow-Znamenskoye (Chechen Republic), 11 Aug—Yaragi Mamodayev, the head of the so-called government of national trust, today appealed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin to stop the threatening development of events in Chechnya, which "could lead to a destabilization of the situation throughout the Caucasus and in Russia." The message says that it is precisely help from the head of the Russian state "which could be the decisive factor for national reconciliation in Chechnya". "There is no other alternative," his appeal says. [passage omitted]

Official Suggests Holding Chechen Congress

LD1108200794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1903 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—Khadzhi-Murat Ibragim Beyli, chairman of the Committee for National Accord and member of the Presidium of the Confederation of the People's of Caucasus [CPC], told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today that he regards the congress of the Chechen people held yesterday as a timely step "because there is a real threat of Russia using force." On the other hand, he described the decisions by the congress on the general mobilization and on "sentencing the leaders of the interim council to death in absentia" as emotional.

Both the opposition and Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime should "tone down their comments," the CPC representative said. Ibragim Beyli considers that convening a truly "nationwide, well-prepared congress of the Chechen people," provided that "Russia does not interfere by using force," could become a way out of the current situation. All clans, political parties and movements in the republic, including representatives of other nationalities living in Chechnya should take part in such a congress. [passage omitted] He also said that a national reconciliation and a start of constructive Chechen-Russian talks are one of the conditions for a settlement in Chechnya. [passage omitted]

Chechen Officials Meet Afghan Mojahedin Leader

NC1108205594 Baku TURAN in English 1805 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, August 11 (TURAN)—Groznyy established direct connection with Afghanistan, the Minister of Press and Information of Chechen Republic, Movladi Udugov, told TURAN's Moscow's correspondent.

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Movladi Udugov said that recently the representatives of Chechen Republic have met with one of the leaders of Afghan mojahedin, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and discussed the perspectives of bilateral cooperation.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud expressed solidarity with the struggle of Chechen's nation for independence and freedom. He said that Afghan mojahedin are ready to help Chechen's nation in case of Russia's aggression against them. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said that the number of Afghan mojahedin can total more than 10,000. "This figure can be increased by several times if Chechen Republic adopts resolution concerning Jihad", Mas'ud said.

Presently the possibility of training of Chechen soldiers by Afghan mojahedins is under consideration.

Military Council Bans Flights to Ingushetia

LD1208125494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—By decision of the Chechen Military Council, "unsanctioned air transport flights to the Chechen Republic are cancelled from 2300 on 11 August." This is stated in a telegram sent from Chechnya and addressed to the Russian Federation Department of Air Communications.

The telegram says that "in the event flights continue to Sleptsovskaya airport, which lies in the Chechen republic of Ichkeria, fighter planes of the Chechen air force will force a landing in Groznyy." (Sleptsovskaya airport, incidentally, is situated on the territory of Ingushetia) It is pointed out that the safety of passengers and air freight cannot be guaranteed. The telegram was signed by the deputy commander of the Chechen air force.

Receipt of this telegram was also confirmed at Vnukovo Airport, from where flights from Moscow to Ingushetia begin.

It should be explained that official Groznyy, despite the formation of the Ingushetian republic, considers a part of the territory of that republic, including the village of Sleptsovskaya, to be its own territory. Officially, the administrative border between Ingushetia and Chechnya has still to be established.

Reports of Prisoners Being Executed in Chechnya

LD1108181094 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1505 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Chechnya's prisons are overcrowded with political prisoners, the independent INA news agency reports. Cells measuring one square meter in area each accommodate four or five people. The agency has learned that persons not to the liking of the Dudayev regime are being executed by shooting right there in the prisons.

Official Says No. Caucasus Most Militarized Area

LD1108202194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Ivan Khrapov, head of the Russian Interior Ministry's operational and investigation group in the zone of state of emergency of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, described the North Caucasian region as Russia's most militarized area. Military experts estimate that the population of Chechnya, North Ossetia, and Ingushetia are now in possession of tens of thousands of units of unregistered combat weapons. Interviewed by RIA, Ivan Khrapov said that over the last two months alone more than 200 crimes had been solved in the zone of state of emergency and sentences had been passed in 107 court cases.

Yeltsin, Zhirinovskiy Visits to Volga Previewed

MM1208084594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Yershov and Anatoliy Stepovoy: "Nizhniy Novgorod Ready for Yeltsin Visit. It Only Remains To Paint the Volga Blue"]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—Boris Yeltsin is expected in Nizhniy Novgorod Saturday morning. The president is coming to the Nizhniy Novgorod Fair, where a small environmental exhibition—which has, incidentally, been extended by one day to mark the occasion—is currently on display. He will then lunch with a small circle of Nizhniy Novgorod businessmen.

The people who drew up the itinerary took account of Yeltsin's love of tennis. The president will first be shown the courts in the Pushkin Garden, where not only the new local aristocracy but also young sportsmen play.

The high point of the program will be when Boris Nikolayevich personally plays on a covered cinder court. His opponent will be the best-known tennis player in Nizhniy Novgorod—Governor Boris Nemtsov, who will have returned from Sochi just a day before this meeting.

After a short rest Boris Yeltsin will stroll down Nizhniy Novgorod's old business street—Bolshaya Pokrovskaya (Sverdlov Boulevard). Here he plans to meet with passers-by.

This completes Boris Yeltsin's five-hour program in the city. The Russian president will set off further down the Volga on the beautiful twin-deck Rossiya.

...At the very time when the match between the top tennis players in Russia and Nizhniy Novgorod is under

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way, yet another famous Russian figure, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy—Boris Yeltsin's rival in the last presidential race and, it is expected, in the next one too—will land on the banks of the Volga.

The State Duma deputy's intention to schedule the date of his visit to Nizhniy Novgorod to coincide with that of the president was revealed in an official telegram by Vengerovskiy, deputy speaker of the State Duma and member of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]. In it he calls for his party boss to receive all the honors due to a deputy—transportation, accommodations, the right to meet with the people, and time to appear on local TV.

The city authorities respected his right to meet with the people, allowing Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to hold a rally-cum-meeting of his supporters on the shores of the Volga in front of the Chkalov monument. The local LDPR party cell demanded that the square named for another famous son of Nizhniy Novgorod—Kozma Minin, organizer of the people's irregulars [early 17th century]—be provided for their central idol. It was not to be. The local authorities did not want the routes taken by the president and the State Duma deputy to intersect.

The demand to provide Zhirinovskiy with live airtime at midday, at the very height of the president's visit to the city, caused the local authorities a bit of a problem—how were they to observe pluralism while not overshadowing the president's visit? All the more so as the "office coup" staged by Zhirinovskiy and his comrades in Governor Nemtsov's residence is still fresh in the memory here.

Nobody yet knows whether the president's visit will improve the lives of Nizhniy Novgorod people. But the citizens have already noted one thing—potholes have been filled in. And since the president's route may be changed, the road workers have covered virtually the entire city center. All of Nizhniy Novgorod's janitors have been placed virtually on garrison duty—they have been issued with extra brooms and dustpans for the visit of the important guest and the concurrent Zhirinovskiy visit, and will have to sweep out places where janitors have never set foot before.

Major preparations for the visit have also been made by a special contingent of advertising agents, who are trying to create in the mass consciousness of ordinary people with money in their pockets the idea of a happy future in the form of bonds from the second oblast administration loan issue—commonly known as "Nemtsovs."

In order to tempt the president to try even a bit of Nizhniy Novgorod happiness, the best artists and designers have built a mockup of a big mobile advertisement in the shape of a shield with persuasive slogans about the second loan. In the opinion of the organizers of this unusual measure, the appearance of a shield for the president should persuade him to buy these securities.

Parties Oppose Elections for Maritime Kray Governor

MK1208114894 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Venevtsev, Denis Demkin: "Elections for Maritime Kray Governor. Party Leaders Make a Stand Against Yevgeniy Nazdratenko"]

[Text] The leaders of Maritime Kray's five political organizations held a press conference yesterday devoted to the upcoming elections for governor. They stated that the temporary election regulations issued by the head of kray administration, Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, crudely violate the Constitution and current legislation. The parties will press for calling off the elections for head of the executive branch scheduled by Yevgeniy Nazdratenko for 7 October.

Many regional elites around Russia are hoping to secure permission to elect their own executive branch heads in order to be less dependent on Moscow. For the time being, however, only Maritime Kray Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko seems likely to succeed. KOMMERSANT-DAILY more than once reported the situation around the elections he set for 7 October to get himself elected—they have no doubts in the kray that Nazdratenko has no worthy contender, and he will certainly be elected to this position.

Nonetheless, branches of the five parties—Social Democratic, Republican, Russian Socialist Democratic People's Party (Rutskoy's party), the Party of Economic Freedom, and the Maritime Liberal Union—have undertaken to prevent this. Their leaders charged Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, in a joint statement, of "violating the current legislation, and creating conditions for rigging voting results." All the violations, in their view, have been made deliberately in order to "satisfy the interests and ambitions of the group that stays in power, and to deny the political parties a chance to participate in the electoral process." Representatives of the parties have also condemned the stance of the Russian president's representative in Maritime Kray, Vladimir Ignatenko, who "has blessed Nazdratenko for violating the Constitution—for seizing power and arrogating the position of authority."

The parties have decided to press for calling off the 7 October elections. They believe there should be elections on 23 October for the kray Duma which would then define the rules of elections for governor.

Observers believe the attempt to oppose Yevgeniy Nazdratenko is most likely to fall through. Not only is he in sufficient control of the situation in the kray, but he

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also enjoys Moscow's support. Many in the kray also regard the president's recent edict awarding the governor "For Personal Courage" displayed in the elimination of the aftermath of the fire in the Pacific Fleet arsenal in the settlement of Novonezhino as confirmation of this (some observers still do not rule out that the explosions in the military depots had been organized to cover up thefts of weapons). The award may also indicate Moscow's approval of the governor's new initiative to make the Kuril Islands part of Maritime Kray.

Nor are Nazdratenko's political opponents too sure of success. It was revealed in the press conference that they had initiated a suit with the kray court for violations committed by the governor in the temporary rules he issued. They, however, have great doubts as to whether the court is going to uphold it. In which case representatives of the parties are going to seek justice by all legal means: by going to the Supreme Court, the president of Russia, and parliament. If this does not help either, the party men would resort to actions of civilian disobedience.

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International Affairs

Kuchma, Nazarbayev Sign Cooperation Memorandum

LD1108174594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan would submit to the next CIS summit a draft treaty on a new integration process inside and outside the Commonwealth.

He told journalists in Kiev where he is on a working visit that the Eurasian Union which he had proposed reflected the quest of the peoples in the newly independent states for a closer and less formal integration than that in the Commonwealth. Nazarbayev was convinced that a common economic and customs space had become economically beneficial. He believed that if members of the Eurasian Union are truly equal, countries outside the CIS would be willing to join it, too.

Nazarbayev said that the CIS treaties do not work because there is no policy coordination in any field between the Commonwealth member states.

He made it clear that he strongly objected to revival of the USSR.

Nazarbayev and his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kuchma gave a joint news conference in Kiev Thursday. Kuchma said that the Kiev leaders are studying Nazarbayev's proposal that a treaty on closer integration within the CIS be signed at the October summit.

Nazarbayev said that he and Kuchma had identical views on all domestic policy issues and on economic integration.

Kuchma and Nazarbayev signed a memorandum on development of cooperation between the two countries. The two sides agreed on the need for coordinated activities on the international scene and intend to continue contacts at the highest level.

The memorandum says that specific decisions have to be mead on economic cooperation in the military technological, financial, budgetary and other fields and that efforts must be made to resolve the payment crisis.

The two presidents agreed, the memorandum says, that efficient economic cooperation should be given priority in the CIS integration.

Nazarbayev said at the news conference that the program of economic cooperation had been worked out until 1999. It calls for the setting up of joint ventures in the leading export-oriented sectors of the two countries such as the production of ferrous alloys and processing of nonferrous metals.

Nazarbayev invited Kuchma to come to Kazakhstan on an official visit.

Leaders Hold News Conference

LD1108151894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Ukraine is attentively examining Kazakhstan's proposal to sign an agreement on closer integration within the commonwealth at the upcoming meeting of heads of CIS states this October, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma declared at a press conference in Kiev August 11. This joint press conference was devoted to the results of Nazarbayev's working visit to Ukraine.

For his part, Nazarbayev reaffirmed his position stating the necessity to create "a normal common economic and customs space" within the CIS. "Experience will show how the policy should be built in the future," he said.

"We—the Ukrainian president and I—occupy the same positions regarding all issues of internal policy and economic integration," Nazarbayev said.

Kuchma and Nazarbayev signed a memorandum on the development of further cooperation between the two countries. The memorandum points out that "the parties recognize the necessity of coordinated actions on the international arena" and intend to maintain contacts at the highest level.

In the economic sphere they point to the necessity of developing cooperation and resolving problems in the military, technical, fiscal, and other fields and to solve the problem of non-payments in industry.

The memorandum specially stresses that "the parties view establishing effective economic cooperation as the major direction of integration within the CIS."

According to Nazarbayev, in the course of this visit Kazakhstan's delegation has also "developed a program of economic cooperation till 1999. It provides for setting up joint ventures in Ukraine's and Kazakhstan's most important export branches, including the production of ferroalloys, and the re-processing of non-ferrous metals.

Nazarbayev has invited Kuchma to pay an official visit to Kazakhstan.

Moldovan Delegation Discusses Cooperation

LD1108141494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev [No date as received]—A meeting between the official Moldovan Government delegation, headed by Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, and Ukrainian Government representatives at the level of first deputy premiers took place today. The Moldovan side was represented by Ion Gutu and the Ukrainian side by Samoplavskyy.

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The Moldovan foreign minister, the ministers of the economy, national security, agriculture, finances, industry, and other officials also arrived in Kiev.

On the Ukrainian side, the meeting was attended by Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers Valeriy Pustovoytenko, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleh Slyepichev, Deputy Finance Minister Borys Sobolyev, Deputy Foreign Minister Oleksandr Makarenko, Deputy Industry Minister Heorhiy Osaulenko, and other officials.

In the words of Ion Gutu "the time has come in mutual relations between Ukraine and Moldova to move from words to deeds" and all the agreements that have been signed between the two countries constitute a legal base for this.

The Moldovan first deputy premier focussed his attention on the nonfulfillment by both sides of the intergovernmental agreements for 1994 as well as on the problems of adhering to interbank agreements and effecting mutual payments. The issues of Moldovan property in Ukraine, particularly enterprises' holiday homes, property relations of Ukrainian and Moldovan rail workers (according to his information, commissions have already been created in Moldova to look into this), were also raised.

"We are prepared to propose that Ukraine floats Moldovan enterprises and for our part we would like to hear supplementary proposals," said Ion Gutu. It is necessary to prepare an intergovernmental agreement on the floatation of enterprises. It would also not be a bad thing in the future to create joint industrial and financial groups, technological and other structures along the path of cooperation and integration."

The Moldovan deputy premier stressed the expediency of creating bilateral mixed Ukrainian-Moldovan commissions that would be a singular working body in improving the effectiveness of bilateral relations.

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Samoplavskyy noted that mutual deliveries between Moldova and Ukraine are being fulfilled at the present time on average by 1.5-7 percent and that it is necessary to adhere to the fulfillment of mutual obligations.

A meeting at ministerial level between Ukraine and Moldova is planned for today where these issues will again be raised.

Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli and [Ukrainian] Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol will give a news conference at 1600 local time.

Moldovan Premier on Kiev Visit

LD1208035194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1711 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov—TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 11 August—"Our interrelations have been consolidated and we have set the economies of our countries to work," Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli said today at a press conference devoted to the results of his one-day visit to Ukraine. He said that Moldova had succeeded in solving many commercial and economic problems in Kiev, relating, among other things, to transport, customs, the border, and property on the territories of the neighboring states.

In reply to journalists' questions, the prime minister said that there were 345,000 tonnes of weapons and ammunition on Moldavian territory which would take three years to be withdrawn from the Republic.

Ukrainian Premier Vitaliy Masol said that agreements had been reached with his Moldovan colleagues on all the main points covered by the meeting. He said that the parties today intended to sign an agreement on property located on each other's territory as well as a protocol on consolidating customs control over the passage of cargoes which will function temporarily until 1 November and will enable Moldova to speed the passage of perishable goods—which account for the lion's share of the republic's exports—across the border.

On the same day, the head of the Moldovan Government was received by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

The Moldovan delegation left Kiev for home today.

Moldova Seeks Help With 14th Army Withdrawal

LD1108162694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli said in Kiev that the agreement on withdrawing the 14th Russian Army from Moldovan territory can be implemented only with Ukraine's consent and assistance. Answering questions from journalists upon arrival in the Ukrainian capital, the Moldovan prime minister said that this subject had been raised at talks with the Ukrainian side. One has to mention that the troops will be withdrawn through Ukrainian territory.

U.S. State Department Team Visits Parliament

WS1208113794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Economic Policy and Management of National Economy has been visited by a U.S. State Department delegation. This meeting was one of the concrete manifestations of Ukrainian-U.S. cooperation following U.S. Vice President Gore's visit to Kiev.

The visitors were interested in the course of privatization in Ukraine, as well as the economic restructurization and proposed concrete measures regarding assistance. The U.S. delegation was told that the 26 July Supreme Council resolution on improving the privatization mechanism in Ukraine and the strengthening of

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control over its implementation does not halt the march of privatization, while only introducing essential corrections into the process of its implementation.

With regard to assistance to Ukraine, our country is grateful for humanitarian support for nuclear disarmament and dealing with the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster.

It was noted at the meeting that permanent long-term economic relations should take the form of a mutually beneficial and equal partnership. The U.S. side also expressed its desire to see Ukraine in the GATT system, a single system of tariffs and trade.

Radetskyy, U.S. Official Discuss START I, Aid

LD1108191494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Vitaliy Radetskyy, the leader of Ukraine's military department [Defense Ministry] received Ashton Carter, the U.S. defense secretary's assistant for military and political issues and his colleagues, who are in Kiev on an official visit. At the meeting they were discussing the practical implementation of the START I Treaty and the trilateral statement by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia.

Radetskyy underlined that Ukraine strictly abides by the schedule of liquidating strategic nuclear armaments and that, despite unfavorable economic conditions, is completing the fulfilment of its obligations within the framework of START I. The United States' money, which Ukraine counts on, is to be used for the technical provision of disarmament, social protection of the missile forces servicemen, and ecological safety.

For his part, Carter explained the reasons for the delay in money supply and gave assurances that essential financial and material aid will be available to Ukraine at the end of the current year. He passed specific projects to Radetskyy in which the terms and volumes of the aid, as well as the officials responsible for their implementation, are determined.

Ministry Reports 300 Nuclear Warheads Withdrawn

LD1108150094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Ukraine has met all obligations under the January trilateral statement made by the Ukrainian, Russian and U.S. presidents, Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy said in an interview with the KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI newspaper.

Radetskyy said by August 11 Ukraine had withdrawn 300 nuclear warheads and had let experts confirm the implementation of its obligations.

According to unofficial reports, Ukraine had about 1,900 nuclear warheads by the beginning of 1994.

Radetskyy said that Russia is also fulfilling its obligations. In particular, Russia sent Ukraine 75 tonnes of fuel elements for nuclear power plants.

Radetskyy said, however, that Ukraine is concerned over the fact that the U.S. had provided just $3 million of the planned $185 million in aid. Radetskyy said this sum equals "1000 tonnes of gasoline, about 1000 tonnes of diesel fuel, five jeeps, three saws and 161 storage batteries."

Radetskyy said that during the recent visit to the 43rd Missile Army in Pervomaisk by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, the army's Commander, Colonel General Mikhtyuk said that Ukraine is carrying out its obligations to dismantle missiles, which has been financed by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and not with the funds promised by the U.S.

Radetskyy said the implementation of the obligations must not be hurried. "That is why he have to review the schedule for our work," he added.

"If the U.S. does not carry out its obligations we must negotiate once again and make our obligations and future actions more precise," Radetskyy said.

Radetskyy said that during his last telephone conversation with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry on August 8, he had been assured that the U.S. Administration will be working on these issues in the coming months. Radetskyy said Perry had told him that the U.S. budget for 1995 includes financing the 43rd Army (to dismantle missiles), to build housing for servicemen and for their social programs.

Ground-to-Air Missiles Stolen From Military Unit

LD1108201294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Several ground-to-air missiles were stolen from a military unit stationed in the Cherkassk Region (Ukraine).

The press service of the Defense Ministry reported to Interfax-Ukraine that those responsible for the theft include both servicemen and civilians. The press service did not clarify when the theft had occurred, only saying that it was "several days ago."

Some of the stolen missiles have been located. A special commission comprising employees of Ukraine's Defense Ministry and Security Service are investigating the case.

According to press service employee Konstantin Khivrenko, the results of the investigation will be made public by August 16.

Statement Clarifies Agreement on Border Patrolling

LD1208102794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The press service of Ukraine's State Committee for State Border Protection published the following statement:

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Several media reports quoting Russian sources attempted lately to present a distorted account of the recently signed Russian-Ukrainian agreement on cooperation and interaction on border issues. In particular, they assert that the document divides the Russian-Ukrainian border into segments patrolled by border guards of only one country. Such statements, the press service says, are absolutely groundless. There is not a word about that in the agreement which deals exclusively with cooperation in the fight against illegal immigration and the smuggling of arms, ammunition, and drugs. There will be no so-called half border between the two states.

The press service stresses that the entire content of the agreement accords with the law on the state border of Ukraine.

National Affairs

Security Council To Play 'More Significant Role'

LD1108162294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The National Security Council (NSC) under the President of Ukraine will play a more significant role in shaping the presidential administration's policies, Chief of the president's Staff Dmitriy Tabachnik told Interfax-Ukraine on August 10. The Council will do the strategic planning and provide the president with information, he said.

He also announced that NSC experts will analyze the political and economic situation in Ukraine and make their forecasts. The National Institute of Strategic Studies is to be subordinated to the NSC.

Vladimir Gorbulin, one of Leonid Kuchma's nearest advisers, was appointed head of the NSC. Before his appointment, Gorbulin was head of the National Space Agency.

Under Kravchuk, the National Security Council supplied the president with information.

Kuchma To Investigate Government Abuses

LD1108142994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] President Leonid Kuchma is to give the go ahead to the establishment of special investigation teams to look into the cases of abuse of office at all levels of government, Administration Chief of Staff Dmitri Tabachnik told Interfax-Ukraine.

He said these would be directly accountable to the president himself and would handle most intricate cases of abuse of office and financial irregularities in the higher echelons of power. They will include members of the administration, prosecutor general's office, interior ministry and the security service.

Tabachnik neither confirmed nor denied speculation that a number of parliamentarians might face criminal charges. However, he said that President Kuchma wanted the law on parliamentary immunity to be rescinded.

Electoral Commission Authorizes Runoff Results

WS1208094094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission held its regular session in Kiev yesterday. The session discussed the issue of registering Ukrainian people's deputies who were elected in the 24 July runoffs. Following the examination of a number of statements and complaints with regard to violations of the election law, it was recognized that there were deviations from the provisions of law on election of people's deputies in certain constituencies. At the same time, it was stated that these deviations did not essentially influence the election returns. The Central Electoral Commission, on the grounds of appropriate articles of the electoral law, registered 20 people's deputies who were elected in the 24 July 1994 runoffs.

Participants in the session also summed up the results of the 31 July and 7 August runoffs. It was stated that the elections were valid in 44 of 46 constituencies and that 39 people's deputies were elected. In five constituencies, no deputy was elected since no single candidate won the necessary amount of votes. The elections in one constituency—Central constituency No. 287 in Mykolayiv Oblast—were declared invalid in connection with turnout below 50 percent. The validity of elections in another constituency—Frankivskiy constituency No. 265—will be determined after the final examination of the results of control, statements, and other materials on the spot. In six constituencies, where the elections were declared invalid or a deputy was not elected, it was resolved to hold repeat elections according to procedures established by law.

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Belarus

Lukashenka on Yeltsin Meeting, Policy Plans

WS1108131594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Russian 1830 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Speech by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka in the BTK Television Network studios in Minsk—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Esteemed Viewers! I guarantee to you that we will be meeting every two weeks; I will honestly be telling you about the steps made by the new government, about the president's program and its implementation; about things that we are going to do tomorrow and in the long run. Today, I would like to tell you what has already been done. I want to speak to you today, just two weeks after I officially assumed the post of president; I want to assess the situation. The Republic is afflicted by a severe crisis. Unfortunately, I have to repeat this over and over. Even God, for some reason, has taken offense and sent us a terrible drought. It hurts to listen to the reports of my aides every morning about the state of things in the Republic; the danger of fires, the situation in Brest Oblast. I would like to voice my support to the oblast's residents. We have done what we could for you, and we will do more. [passage omitted]

Our most dramatic problem at present is a [word indistinct] and the current level of inflation. As you all know, in my election platform I deemed the issue of bringing down inflation to be a primary task. Our people are in a terrible situation, all goods are expensive, and the average wage is too low to buy even inexpensive items. At the same time, people cannot afford to put money aside to buy more expensive things. Inflation, like rust, is eating away at people's incomes. This is the number one issue and we will have to wage a merciless fight against this problem, even if we have to try very hard. We have driven that problem very deep inside and it has grown into a mega-problem, while it should have been resolved long ago. Electoral emotions and other problems of a political nature, including economic populism, have, however, prevented us from resolving this problem. This ailment has been driven very deep inside and it will not be easy to lift the Republic out of this situation. We are currently dealing with a dire crisis in the system. Aside from the economic crisis, as we have often pointed out, produced by a stupid disruption of ties between the economies of the former republics [of the former USSR] and between enterprises, we are now dealing with a crisis of power. A new president has been elected and a new government has come; an honest and decent administration—take my word for it—is being formed from the top. The former administration, however, still exists. I do not mean to say that those people who represent this administration are worthless, but the problem is how to merge these two administrations—the old and new. We are also experiencing a crisis of trust. People have become accustomed to the fact that they have constantly been cheated and they no longer believe the administration. This is the most difficult obstacle for me and the new government to overcome. [passage omitted]

I would like to point out the wait-and-see standpoint and low level of discipline, the laxity and even direct sabotage of the new power on the part of certain administrators. They might think: Let them fuss, we will sit here quietly. In this regard, I would like to state: Nobody has the right, neither my supporters in the electoral campaign nor so-called democratic circles, to mock the provincial cadre—rayon soviet chairmen, employees of executive bodies, and others managers of local bodies of power and enterprises. I have not empowered anybody to do that. The KGB chairman and interior minister were yesterday tasked with examining these trends in the provinces and reporting on the results of their study. On the other hand, I want to say that if acts of sabotage and neglect of my edicts and directives are noted by the leaders of local bodies of power and entrepreneurs, the punishment will be severe. We must begin working and not simply look up and hope that wealth will pour down on us.

My first steps were marked with meetings with people representing the strong West. IMF Director Michel Camdessus, who has visited the Republic of Belarus, has stated openly that the West will assist us. They will assist us, however, provided that we will strictly observe the rules of reform that must be carried out in Belarus. We have had an open, honest, and principled conversation with this man and I hope that we have reached a compromise—we are not going to make our economic reform more harsh; we are not going to rush from side to side, for we know our realities better than people from the West do. Nevertheless, we have realized that without reforming our economy, without concrete steps in that direction, we will not be able to make any progress. On the other hand, you all know that not long ago a meeting was held between the Belarusian and Russian presidents and governmental delegations. Assessing this meeting in general, and commenting on its results for the first time, I must say that Russia took a pragmatic stance toward Belarus. We maintain the warmest and most friendly relations with Russia, treating the latter as a big neighbor. We have agreed to continue and expand cooperation in all spheres. It has, however, become evident that, given Russia's domestic problems, despite the readiness of the Russian leadership to continue their support, the neighboring state will not resolve Belarusian problems on our behalf, ranging from economic reform to harvesting. I want to comment on the concerns and emotions that I experienced in the course of my negotiations with Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin. My hardest task was to destroy the image of Lukashenka as created by the Belarusian and Russian mass media. I believe that I managed to this quickly, especially in my conversation with the Russian president. We had to make a personal acquaintance for the Russian president to realize who had come to power in Belarus. We did that. I had to prove that the friendly Republic of Belarus is extremely important to the Russian Federation, just as Russia is

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important to Belarus. I will tell you frankly that also before the negotiations, I did not count on assistance from anybody other than the great friendly Russian nation. No, I did not ask for free assistance. I asked for support, for an expansion of our economic cooperation. I simply recommended to Yeltsin that we not erect a fence between our two nations. Why should Russia launch the production of tractors on its territory, while [words indistinct]? We reached an understanding on this issue with the Russian leadership. As a result, the meeting ended with total support from their side—you saw this, and you heard Yeltsin's interview after the negotiations. Right after this, Yeltsin kept his promise to me and requested that Prime Minister Chernomyrdin support the new leadership of the Republic of Belarus. [passage omitted]

I would deem my negotiations with Chernomyrdin as difficult, even strenuous. Our tete-a-tete conversation lasted for two and a half hours. We agreed on strategic issues and this means that we will sign a treaty on friendship, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations between Russia and Belarus. We also agreed to draft a final version of the treaty on the monetary system unification. The draft has in fact been improved and completed. I have recently been asked about this particular treaty [on friendship and cooperation]. [passage indistinct]

We did not regard it as our task to sign this treaty. We have recently tried to evaluate this treaty and the movement toward the unification of our monetary systems from the viewpoint of Russia, primarily that of Aleksandr Shokhin and Viktor Chernomyrdin, whom we used to consider ardent opponents of unification. We now realized how correct this man was and how wisely he treated this issue. We have agreed that if we decide to merge our systems today, without bringing our reform and economy closer to the level of Russia, the Belarusian economy will be exhausted within the period of one month. Russia's inflation rates are 5, 6, or 7 percent, while in Belarus they exceed 40 percent. Specialists understand what can be the consequences of such unification. That is why we must at least cope with inflation.

We also discussed tactical issues that are of primary mutual concern. You understand that times are hard, harvesting is under way, we have virtually no fuel and our debt for Russian power resources was 14 trillion rubles [R] as of 1 August. We will need an additional R23 trillion to prepare for winter and satisfy demand in the economic sector. Where can we get such exorbitant sums of money? This problem had to be resolved. The result is—Russia did not exert pressure on us or demand immediate repayment of debts. Nevertheless, we are currently compiling a repayment schedule for our debt to the Russian Federation. We also asked Russia to grant us new state credits that will enable us to at least live through the winter. We agreed that R150 billion will be allocated to Belarus, in installments of between R20 billion and R50 billion, so that we can finance our harvesting campaign. When the Russian State Duma gathers for a first post-vacation session, this issue will be addressed. We also discussed the issue of creating joint enterprises with Russia and sharing the property of Belarusian enterprises. This primarily concerns the Novopolotsk and Mozyr refineries, and the Grodnoazot [nitrogen] plant. A very good scheme was suggested for the forming of a joint enterprise with the Novopolotsk refinery. The refinery will receive sufficient amounts of oil and produce oil products and raw materials necessary for the launching of chemical production in the Mogilev amalgamation of chemical fiber and similar enterprises in Svetlogorsk and Grodno. I consider this a very important endeavor, its drafting is nearing completion and I will control its implementation.

We also agreed to rebuild the Moscow-Brest highway; organize rapid movement of passenger trains on the Moscow-Minsk-Berlin route; build a system of main gas pipelines from Yamal to Europe. We reached agreement on Russian troops in the Republic of Belarus. I must emphasize that we did not pressure Russia to immediately withdrawal its troops, for we know what problems this would evoke in both Russia and Belarus. Another issue, which was requested by my electorate in almost every oblast city, especially in Minsk, is that Russia's Foreign Economic Bank will repay frozen currency funds to Belarusian citizens. I received a fax from Moscow today, saying that Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a government resolution which stipulates that, until 1 October 1994, Russian products exported to Belarus will be free of customs duties. Thus, the resolution's validity has been prolonged. There is one conclusion to be drawn from the results of the Moscow meeting. Despite colossal support and assistance rendered by the Russian Federation, we have to rely on ourselves. [passage omitted]

I have submitted my financial statements for public record, and the press has already published my income and property disclosures. Every citizen or political organization can verify these statements, also regarding foreign bank accounts. This will now concern every official—an example has been made. Besides, I have made a decision that I will leave 30 percent of my presidential salary in the budget. This is my initiative and I will not force anybody—I am referring to rich people—to do the same. I am, however, appealing to those who are not very poor to support the president's initiative. [passage omitted]

I want to report to you that the formation of the Cabinet of Ministers has virtually been completed. The government is an alloy forged from experience and youth, and comprises people of different political views. They are, however, undoubtedly intelligent and talented. We have completed the reorganization of the central bodies of power. The central apparatus of the Cabinet of Ministers, including the Presidential Administration, will be 30 percent smaller than the Kebich government alone. [passage omitted]

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I have also reformed the control services, especially the Department for Economic Control, which has been substantially reshuffled, reduced its staff by 50 percent, and subordinated it directly to the president. The department has been headed by Vasil Dawhalyow, who has become the president's eyes and ears.

We have also formed the Anticorruption Committee, which currently handles all the appointments of senior offices. I know that you would like us to screen local officials as well. Give us time and we will reach them, too.

[passage omitted] I have given specific instructions with regard to privatization. We are currently examining what we have privatized and what we have grabatized [naprykhvatizirovali]. The process is a long one; it cannot be resolved immediately, but this problem is being examined. It must be understood that we are not going to take away property from anybody. We are not going to break the law. If, however, somebody has broken the law, we will be forced to restore justice.

Now, about benefits and privileges: I touch upon this issue because this unpopular measure will soon be applied to some people. There are currently around 300 benefits and privileges in operation on the territory of the Republic of Belarus. They are enjoyed by 5.6 million citizens of the Republic of Belarus. The republic of benefits and privileges! As if there are no difficulties in the economy! These include [transportation] fares, municipal services, medicine, fuel, and so on. They are enjoyed by those people who deserve them: disabled people, veterans, veterans of foreign wars, honored people, exonerated prisoners, handicapped children, people's deputies, members of the militia, [word indistinct], etc., etc. Today, at current prices, these benefits and privileges amount to around 1 trillion rubles per year. Well, let it be. This is established by the law. And this? In accordance with resolution such and such, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet resolves that the Supreme Soviet chairman and the Cabinet of Ministers chairman are granted a life pension in the amount of 70 percent of the monthly salary of the Supreme Soviet chairman. [passage omitted]

Just before his resignation, Vyachaslaw Frantsavich [Kebich] adopted a resolution allotting, in accordance with this resolution, dacha No. 26 to Myachaslaw Hryb and dacha No. 27 to Kebich for lifelong use. It is strange that Myachaslaw Ivanavich did not even know about this benefit which was all of a sudden bestowed upon him. [passage omitted]

I will now address the issue of prices. The price for wheat and rye bread covers only 13.5 percent of its production cost; sour cream and cheese—33-37 percent; milk—only 6 percent. To cover the remaining cost, the state had to allot subsidies. Look at the mechanism of that. Money was collected for the budget from both the rich and the poor. Nobody knows who paid more; chances are that the poor did. Then everybody received subsidies for bread, rolls, milk, and cheese. Nobody knows who ate more—the poor or the rich. I believe that this anarchy must be brought to an end. I only want to say that R1 trillion was spent on these subsidies in the fist half of 1994, while R6 trillion will have to be paid in the second half. The budget does not have such money. Moreover, you all see that illegal exports of foodstuffs to the neighboring republics have increased. These republics have suspended the operation of their bakeries. Why produce bread once Belarus is meeting the overall demand for bread? Peddlers with butter, cream, cheese, and milk keep on moving. People often ask me: Do you not see what is going on? Why do you restrain prices? I can say the following with this regard. Yes, indeed, I have not allowed the government to increase prices for bread and milk in the course of two weeks. It was not because they should not have been increased; it was because no clear mechanism for protecting the population has been worked out. The Cabinet of Ministers reported to me yesterday that these measures have been worked out. Regardless of how great the difficulties, the government adopts resolutions on an increase in retail prices, first of all, on bread, milk, and milk products to prevent an uncontrolled export of these foodstuffs from the Republic of Belarus. We have transparent borders, and this must be brought to an end. You surely see and understand that people today... [Lukashenka pauses] There are new professions among our people, such as peddlers who buy things, bring them to Russia or to some other place, and return from there, having earned in one or two days as much as people earn in an entire month. Is this normal? [passage omitted]

Only the price factor will protect [the domestic market]. One must, however, protect the poor along with this. I declare here that we will protect the poor. Compensation will not be given to the president, merchants, rich people, officials, managers, and highly paid employees. The 100 percent compensation will be paid to pensioners, students, children—all children, of both rich and poor families will be given this compensation for bread and milk in connection with the increased prices. [passage omitted]

We have adopted a difficult and very unpopular measure by liberating prices on these basics. However, I told the government yesterday: This is the first and the last step to be taken under my presidency. The following month, we will regulate people's incomes, bringing them in line [with prices], especially for those socially insecure categories. [passage omitted]

Lukashenka, Kuchma To Hold 'High-Level' Conferences

WS1208124694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka held an official conversation with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on 12 August. The conversation primarily touched upon the issue of economic cooperation

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between the two states. Both sides agreed to hold high-level working conferences, the dates of which are to be coordinated through diplomatic channels.

Lukashenka Briefs Envoys on Foreign Policy Priorities

WS1108141194 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] On August 11, a conference of Belarus' ambassadors to foreign countries was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Speaking at the conference President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka stressed again that Russia would be top priority in Belarus' foreign policy. At the same time good relations must be developed with the other neighboring states—Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia. Particular consideration, according to the president, should be given to relationship with the United States of America. Voicing his position towards the CIS the president declared: "I am willing to support the CIS in every possible way. However, we must concretize relationship within it. We have had enough of senseless air travelling above the territory of the former Soviet Union!" Speaking about the problem of ethnic Belarusians abroad, the president said: "We must stand up for our compatriots abroad. We must help them, before all economically."

Minister for Foreign Affairs Uladzimir Syanko directed the president's attention to the necessity to increase the ministry's staff by a third, to improve the financial and technical conditions of the Belarusian diplomatic offices' work abroad. A. Lukashenka promised this proposal would be considered by the Cabinet of Ministers, and if necessary, "the foreign office's staff will be as large as you need."

The second half of the conference, which was dedicated to the inner-ministry problems, was held behind closed doors.

Lukashenka Comments on Talks With Moldovan Premier

LD1108173394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] In his interview with Interfax President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said that there are "very great" prospects in Belarussian-Moldovan relations if the contacts on the inter-state level would have "concrete trends."

Commenting results of his meeting with Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli in Minsk Wednesday, Lukashenka underlined that he "has made his final conclusion on inactivity of previous structures of Belarus' executive power." "It appears that we could have agreed on deliveries of cheap cigarettes, wines, brandies, vegetables, and fruits to Belarus," Lukashenka said. However, "Belarussian ministries just did not want to get busy with this."

Lukashenka underlined that "all agreements between Moldovan government and former Belarussian government have not been fulfilled in practice." He reported that he, in particular, proposed to Sangheli to procure tobacco in Moldova at the price one dollar per one kilogram.

"Given my meeting with Sangheli I understood that we should force to work our government structures, especially ministries," Lukashenka noted. He called the situation when the state trade sector "just refuses" to compete with the private one as inadmissible. "We should prevent such a situation when goods exported from Moldova to Belarus are sold via several commercial structures in order to raise the price," Lukashenka said. At the same time he explained that "there are no goods in the Belarusian shops which were delivered via inter-state channels."

When asked how he intends "to force the ministries work" Lukashenka made it clear that his authorities in the sphere of staff policy are the main lever to achieve this goal: "As a president, I appoint all ministers."

Foreign Ministry To Focus on Economic Interests

LD1108153494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Report by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] The Belarusian Foreign Ministry will be oriented to the economic interests of the republic, attract foreign investments and search for promising foreign partners, Belarusian President Lukashenka said in Minsk on Thursday. He addressed a conference of Belarusian ambassadors and leaders of consulates abroad.

Lukashenka cited as an example of efficient work the activities of the Belarusian Embassy in Moscow and its leader Viktor Danilenko.

The president pointed to the possible increase in the personnel and expenditures of Belarusian foreign representations, if this would be economically grounded and promise profit for the republic.

Under discussion was the increase in the number of the personnel of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, which now constitutes over 100 people. Among the proposals is a gradual doubling in the number of the ministry's personnel.

Deputy Interior Ministers Appointed

WS1208125194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The new Interior Troops commander, Valyantsin Ahalets, has been presented to the personnel of Minsk

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Interior Troop units. The presentation ceremony was attended by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Viktar Sheyman, state secretary of the Belarusian Security Council. Alyaksandr Lukashenka read an edict on the appointment of new interior minister deputies. In accordance with the edict, the posts will be occupied by young, however experienced specialists—Mikalay Krechka, Yuriy Radzyukevich, Syarhey Rukhladzew, Yuryy Tarabaryn, and Valyantsin Ahalets. Valeriy Izotaw has been appointed first deputy interior minister.

Forestry Minister Dismissed

WS1208104094 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] On 10 August, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka issued an edict dismissing Minister of Forestry Heorhiy Markowski from his post for gross violations of office duties, which were manifested in his careless attitude to the organization and to control of external economic activity of the Ministry, that inflicted material loss to the interests of the Republic.

The same edict charged the Cabinet of Ministers with the task of dismissing, according to established procedures, managers of oblast production forestry associations. The Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Belarus was charged with initiating action in connection with the materials on external economic activity of the Ministry of Forestry, which were submitted by the Chamber of Control.

Government Wants To End Financing Press

LD1108193594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Belarussian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Gonchar said that the government eventually wants to stop financial support of the country's newspapers.

In an exclusive Interfax interview he said it was an absurd situation that the government owned five newspapers.

Gonchar said, ideally, the newspapers have to be left to sink or swim but in the existing economic environment none of the central Belarussian dailies could survive without state subsidies.

Gonchar would keep the country's papers under state control so as to continue their financing legally. Newspapers in Belarussia and those having the largest circulation would be given preference in the financing, he said.

He believes the government should appoint chief editors as long as the newspapers remain state-controlled.

Gonchar said that the government should retain just one newspaper to publish the Cabinet decisions and comments on them. The RESPUBLIKA newspaper, founded by the government, could serve the purpose, he added.

Gonchar admitted that the Belarussian information market was dominated by Russian media, largely shaping public opinion. He emphasized that the shortage of professional journalists is very acute in Belarus. If this gap is not filled, Russian media will continue their domination, he said.

Gonchar attributes this situation to the Soviet tradition of taking the best scientists, industrialists and managers as well as journalists to Russia. He was convinced that if the brain-drain is not stopped within a year, Belarus will not become truly independent.

Measures Adopted To Secure Harvesting

WS1208082894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] One of the first documents passed by the new Belarusian Government is the resolution "On Urgent Measures in Connection With Drought in the Republic."

Under the resolution, the Council of Ministers tasks rayon and oblast executive committees, as well as a number of ministries and departments to take all the necessary steps to save this year's on-the-root harvest. In particular, they are to secure the envisioned volumes of grain deliveries for state needs, and to grant a 50 percent extra payment to agricultural enterprises for grain deliveries, in addition to the targets fixed by the government.

The Council of Ministers obliges the Belarusian State Concern for Oil and Oil Products to supply the agricultural sector with 140,000 tonnes of gasoline and 227,000 tonnes of diesel fuel.

In order to finance the harvesting campaign the government requests that the National Bank allot additional funds worth 400 billion Belarusian rubles [R] for reaping, processing, and garnering agricultural products; R350 billion for creating a reserve of foodstuffs; and R1.6 trillion for purchasing oil products.

In order to avoid financial problems in the course of harvesting, and in light of unfavorable weather conditions, the Council of Ministers resolves to consider a compulsory insurance for crops, or else farms will have to refund their losses themselves.

The resolution places particular emphasis on fire-prevention arrangements, combating theft of agricultural products, and assistance to agrarians on the part of urban residents.

Prices for Bread, Dairy Products 'Soar'

WS1108141694 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] On August 11, prices for bread, bakery products, milk and dairy produce soared in the country. In particular, a loaf of brown bread rose in price from 300 to 3,900 Belarusian rubles, a liter of milk—from 120 to

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2800. Speaking yesterday evening on the national television the president explained the jump in prices with "the necessity to prevent a barbarous drain of foodstuffs from the territory of Belarus." He pointed out he had not allowed the government to take such a move as long as the program of 100-percent compensation to the most needy strata of population—pensioners, students, large families—was not worked out.

Liberalization May Cause 70% Rise in Prices

WS1108150294 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The new government intends to carry out social policy exclusively directionally, Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich declared in an interview to the NARODNAYA GAZETA paper. According to him, the most needy people will be given a 100-percent compensation in view of the forthcoming liberalization of prices. For the rest of the population their money incomes from their principal jobs are to be raised. At self-financing organizations the process will be carried out at the expense of wage indexation according to the indexation law. In M. Myasnikovich's opinion, as a result of price liberalization, prices are expected to jump approximately by 70 percent. "When prices are free, the vice-premier said, we shall not have such a sharp rise in prices".

Moldova

NATO Delegation Arrives To Discuss Partnership

LD1108135294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] A NATO delegation headed by General John Waters, deputy commander of NATO's European forces, arrived in the Moldovan capital Kishinev [Chisinau] Thursday. The aim of the visit is to discuss cooperation between Moldova and NATO within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program.

The delegation will meet President Mircea Snegur and Defense Minister Pavel Creanga.

Snegur Confident Dniester Problem To Be Settled Soon

LD1108185294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said he was sure his country's region of Transdniestria [Dniester] would receive a special status before the last Russian soldier left Moldova.

At a meeting with General of the Army John Waters, deputy commander-in-chief of NATO forces in Europe, Snegur said Moldova and Russia had reached a compromise, Russia agreeing to withdraw its 14th Army within a three-year period.

"It is very important that the armaments held by the Russian 14th Army should be carried to Russia by the military. This tremendous amount of armaments must by no means be allowed to fall into the hands of individuals who might once again provoke an armed conflict," he said.

Russia, at a round of talks that ended in Kishinev [Chisinau] on Wednesday, agreed to pull out its troops from Moldova within three years after a relevant agreement, subject to approval by the two countries' governments, takes effect. Moldova, for its part, pledged to try to settle its conflict with Transdniestria.

Implications of 14th Army 'Reorganization' Reviewed

AU1108191394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1900 GMT 10 Aug 94

["Political commentary: Alleged Reorganization of 14th Army and Talks on Its Withdrawal From Moldova"]

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 10/8/1994—The 10th round of Moldovan-Russian negotiations on 14th Army's withdrawal from Moldova began today in Chisinau in the context of the confusion surrounding the 14th Army's alleged reorganization or even dissolution. Since a Moscow military experts' commission, headed by Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, has arrived in Tiraspol while General Aleksandr Lebed is missing from the 14th Army Headquarters, military and civil sources from Tiraspol and Moscow continue to relay contradictory information on the intentions of the Russian Defence Ministry regarding the 14th Army.

Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed is often the subject of the information, saying that he has been already dismissed because he got too much involved in politics, thus breaching his soldier status. Some say that he had an intolerant attitude towards Dniester authorities and that he criticized vehemently the Russian leadership and Defence Ministry. Statements were made at the 14th Army command that officers protested against Lebed's dismissal and refused to obey the Russian Defence Ministry if Lebed is dismissed. Lebed himself confirmed his dismissal and compared the decision of the defence minister to Mikhail Gorbachev's dismissal: "To eliminate Gorbachev from the races for power, they dissolved his country. To eliminate me they dissolve the Army."

Tiraspol authorities repeatedly implied that the dismissal of the "rebel" general was made with their help. Colonel Mikhail Bergman, Tiraspol garrison commander, confirms this saying that "General Lebed's dismissal is nothing but an avenge which pleases Dniester president Igor Smirnov." Unofficially, Igor Smirnov denied that he was involved in Lebed's dismissal. Referring to the 14th Army's reorganization into a limited contingent of the Russian peacekeeping forces, the Dniester leader said that the dismissal of 237 officers will harm the 14th Army soldiers amounting to 8,000.

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According to Smirnov, the 14th Army will be transformed into a military base.

And finally, after the agitation has grown, the Russian Embassy to Chisinau "crosses all the t's" saying that "the latest decisions of the Russian Defence Ministry on the 14th Army envision only the reduction of its general staff, and General Lebed officially is still commander of the 14th Army."

According to a representative of the Russian Embassy, the reduction is due to the disproportions between the number of officers and soldiers which made the Russian Defence Minister transform the 14th Army into an operative military troops group. This "game" of statements and denials issued sometimes by the same people makes observers believe that it is a prelude to the 10th round of Moldovan-Russian talks. According to them, "if the agitation on the alleged reshuffling and reorganization in the 14th Army had not taken place it had to be invented" to make "the Moldovan delegation grow aware of the difficulty level arising at any attempt to change the 14th Army's status."

"Moldova continues to be a polygon on which Russia experiences new forms of its foreign policy with the involvement of military contingent," concludes a military expert from Chisinau. Nevertheless, both Russian and Moldovan officials stated that the recent decisions do not affect the talks. Representatives of the Moldovan Government pointed out that if these decisions are fulfilled "this will be quite a surprise for the Moldovan leadership as they were not coordinated with Chisinau." On the other hand, the same representative of the Russian Embassy mentioned that the Moldovan authorities "understood" the decision on the 14th Army's reorganization. The real implications of this decision will be judged depending on the results of the negotiations on the 14th Army.

Response to Romanian Declaration Criticized

PSDM Chairman Sees 'Overreaction'

AU1108152794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2230 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/8/1994—"The overreaction of the current Moldovan Government to the declarations by the Romanian parties and political movements can be explained by Moldova's sharply decreasing standard of living in comparison with Romania's," Oazu Nantoi, Moldovan Social Democratic Party (PSDM) chairman, stated to BASA. Commenting on the response declaration by the Moldovan Government, Nantoi said: "Only if it increases the living standard, will the government have the right to overreact."

In his opinion, "the political reasons for the Declaration is the Moldovan Government's orientation towards the East, which is programmed genetically." Nantoi said that a consequence of this declaration could be the worsening relations between Romania and Moldova. "Though flower bridges were made, the current relations between Chisinau and Bucharest are far from civilized; we could remain blocked and semi-isolated in our post-Soviet situation," Nantoi stated.

Other parties of moderate or radical orientation have not made yet a statement on the declaration by the Chisinau Government.

FPCD Says Chisinau Waging 'Cold War'

AU1108152494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2230 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/8/1994—"The Chisinau Government's declaration marks the worsening of relations with Romania," a declaration by Iurie Rosca, Christian Democratic People's Front (FPCD) chairman indicates. He stated that "the Chisinau regime does not conceive another way of Moldova's affirmation, but by denying the national unity of Romanians."

Chisinau's attitude toward Bucharest is deemed as "a cold war fought according to the classical model of Soviet propaganda against the West." Such a propaganda can achieve results only by establishing an iron curtain on the Prut River by committing cultural genocide against all those who declare their Romanian identity." Rosca concludes that after the adoption of the Constitution, the Chisinau leadership attempts to fulfill an old intention to harass the FPCD and eliminate it from the political arena.

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Uzbekistan

Ties With Iran Hampered by 'Anti-Islamic Postures'

LD1008211694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Velayati arrived in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, on Tuesday August ninth, on the first leg of his tour of Central Asia and Caucasia.

After his arrival Mr. Velayati held talks with his Uzbek counterpart, Mr Saidmukhtar Saidqasymov, during which the two countries' political, economic, commercial and cultural cooperation as well as ways for regional cooperation were reviewed.

Mr. Qasymov described the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in strengthening peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan and Iran's initiative in the Tajik peace talks as significant, praising the peace-seeking policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in establishing stability in the region. The ground for the establishment of ties between the Central Asian countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran was paved with the collapse of the former Soviet Union and independence of the said countries. In this connection the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan, in view of the two countries' common cultual, religious and historic bonds and geographical proximity, visited the countries of one another. In this regard Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's last year visit to the countries of Central Asia and Caucasia including Uzbekistan and the rousing welcome that he received in the region are of special significance.

According to political experts despite the conclusion of agreements on the promotion of economic ties during the Iranian president's visit to Uzbekistan and the signing of letters of understanding in the fields of mining and oil and gas exploration between the two countries, their potential cooperation in various fields could not expand due to the anti-Islamic postures of the Uzbek president, Mr. Islam Karimov. The experts believe that in view of the fact that of the 22 million population of Uzbekistan 87 percent are Muslims, if the leaders of that country do not obstruct the propagation of practical aspects of Islam and observance of Islam's socio-religious obligations by the people, they can act in line with the wishes of the people of that country and enhance ties with the Muslim countries of the region, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran. There is no doubt that if this is realized and there is coordination between the two countries in acting in line with the Islamic injunctions, then countries like Iran and Uzbekistan, because of having variety of economic resources in the fields of industry and agriculture, can have ever greater promotion of their ties. In doing so, besides meeting their own demands, they can leave desirable impact on the economic growth of the regional countries.

Oil, Gas, Coal Production 'Considerably Increased'

LD1108152694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Uzbekistan considerably increased the production of oil, gas and coal in the first half, compared to the same period last year. According to Uzbekistan's Statistics Committee, the republic produced 2.6 million tonnes of oil in the first half, up 37 percent from the first half of 1993. Uzbekistan also produced 24.6 billion cubic meters of gas (up 8 percent) and 1.9 million tonnes of coal (a 21 percent increase).

Uzbekistan is still the only CIS country which produces all of the natural gas and coal it consumes, and the only republic mining industry is operating without set-backs.

At the same time, Tashkent depends on Russian oil imports. Russia provides 60 percent the oil consumed in Uzbekistan each year (annual consumption is about 8 million tonnes.

Uzbekistan produced 4.5 million tonnes of oil in 1993 and plans to increase oil production to 5.5 million tonnes this year. By 1996, the Uzbek government plans to make the republic energy independent, and start exporting petroleum products.

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Armenia

Azerbaijani Shelling of Border Regions Reported

NC1108204794 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry press service has reported that the Azerbaijani Army units again violated the cease-fire on Armenia's northeastern and southwestern borders yesterday evening. The enemy used all types of weapons to shell the defensive positions around Voskepar and Koti in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon between 1700 and 1935. There were no casualties.

Fire was directed at the defensive positions around Yeraskhavan in Araratskiy Rayon from the territory of Nakhichevan between 1730 and 1800. There were casualties in this case.

Our border guards did not retaliate.

The same source reported that a relative calm has been prevailing in the rest of the border regions since last night.

We have received no information on the situation on war fronts in Nagorno-Karabakh.

National Democratic Union Pressures Government

NC1108200994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1514 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Yerevan, August 11 (SNARK)—The President of Armenia tried to frighten the nation by the National-Democratic Union (NDU) at the conference of law-defence bodies, said today the leader of the NDU Davit Vardanyan at the press conference. Meanwhile, as he thinks, the conference aimed to consolidate the forces, which support the ruling group.

According to the NDU, the necessary conditions for democratic elections, that must take place in Armenia next year, must be created already now: if the opposition is going to do nothing, mafia in Armenia will finally take power. As one of the NDU members thinks, the ruling party will change its policy only under the pressure of the nation and the state will be saved.

Today the dividing line must be between the followers and the opponents of the police regime, and not between the "lefts" and "rights", it was said at the press conference.

Davit Vardanyan is sure, if the supporters of democratic government come to the power in Armenia, the minimum wage will be 10 dollars here after a year. According to him, it will become possible owing to elimination of extortions from the Armenian enterprises (this is a common fact now). Tomorrow, on August 12, the NDU intends to hold their next meeting.

Communist Party Views Forging Ties Abroad

NC1108124994 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0721 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Yerevan ("RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" daily), 08/11/94—First Secretary of RA [Republic of Armenia] Communist Party Sergey Badalyan believes, the main goal today is reconstruction of socialism.

Communists held a conference at the Echmiadzin district committee of the Communist Party of Armenia (CPA) and decided that CPA should establish close links with communist parties of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, France, Cyprus, Syria and Lebanon. They criticized the government, "who won the trust of people, covered by the "Karabakh" committee, but have been merely struggling for power."

The Communist Party of Armenia will call its regular 31st congress on August 20.

Privatization Certificate System Introduced

NC1108204594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The Armenian president has signed a decree on the introduction of a system of privatization certificates in the Republic. The decree has instructed the Armenian Government to ensure the adoption within a month of sub-legislative acts that would make the privatization certificates legal tender for payments, exchange, debt repayments, and purchases; to speed up the preparatory work so that the system can begin on 1 October 1994 at the latest; and to establish within two weeks the procedure to distribute the privatization certificates. The full text of the decree will be published in the press.

Azerbaijan

Karabakh Opposes Linking Accord to Troop Pullout

LD1108134894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh is against linking a political agreement on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict with the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the cities of Shusha and Lachin.

Shusha, a city which was mostly populated by Azerbaijanis before the conflict, "is located in Karabakh, so the demand for the withdrawal of Karabakh formations from it are out of place," a spokesman for the foreign ministry of the unrecognized Nagorno- Karabakh republic told Interfax.

The problem of Lachin, currently controlled by Karabakh forces, may be discussed on the condition that the armed conflict is settled completely and with solid guarantees, since the Lachin corridor is the only road linking Karabakh with the rest of the world, he said.

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Azerbaijan's state foreign-policy advisor Vafa Guluzade told Interfax that Azerbaijan was ready to sign a comprehensive political agreement on Karabakh and discuss Karabakh's status only if Armenians withdraw from all of occupied territory, including Shusha and Lachin.

Meanwhile, closed talks between representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, under the mediation of Russia's special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov are drawing to an end in Moscow. The negotiating parties are coordinating a draft agreement on ending the armed conflict.

Internal Affairs Troops Collect Illegal Weapons

NC1008205994 Baku TURAN in English 1705 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 10 (TURAN)—Azerbaijan's Ministry of Internal Affairs has been collecting illegally kept arms from the population of the northern regions of Azerbaijan (Kubanskiy, Kusarskiy, Khachmasskiy, Devechi and Siazan) for five days running, the Head of press service of Ministry of Internal Affairs, Khikmet Jamilzade, told TURAN.

Jamilzade said that during this operation foreign guns, the equipments for illegal fishing were found and confiscated and the land under cultivation of narcotic plants was destroyed.

Khikmet Jamilzade also added that the employees of Ministry of Internal Affairs found that several officials of those regions took bribes and permitted to remove strategically important goods.

He said that during the operation they examined only one train travelling the route Baku-Moscow and found 50 persons, who escaped from military service.

The Commander of Azeri Internal Forces, Major-General, Ramiz Mamedov, heads the operation in the northern regions. The forces from Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as internal forces of the republic are involved in this operation as well.

Official on Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Talks

LD1108170794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Azerbaijan is prepared to sign a major political agreement to settle the Karabakh conflict and discuss the status of Nagorno-Karabakh on the condition the Armenian side agrees to vacate all occupied Azerbaijani territories, including the towns of Shusha and Lachin, the state foreign policy adviser Vafa Gulazade has said.

He recalled that Armenian and Azerbaijani experts were currently working on an agreement in Moscow with the mediation of the Russian presidential representative Vladimir Kazimirov and CSCE officials.

Gulazade has said the side had agreed to refrain from disclosing any details of the talks. At the same time he said that the peace process had begun and the Russian Federation and the CSCE took much of the credit for that.

The Armenian parliamentary speaker Babken Ararktsian has said it will be possible to conclude a full-scale political treaty to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict by the end of the month. He was speaking in St. Petersburg on Sunday, where he attended the closing ceremony of the Goodwill Games.

"If that does not happen, the document signed by the Azerbaijani and Armenian Defence Ministers and the commander of Nagorno- Karabakh's forces on July 26 will be in effect as a temporary agreement", Ararktsian said. (In that agreement the rival factions confirmed their commitment to stick to the cease-fire agreement, concluded in the middle of last May - IF.)

Ararktsian said it was the general feeling that the status of Nagorno-Karabakh will be discussed only after a large-scale settlement treaty had been concluded.

In the meantime Nagorno-Karabakh has rejected Azerbaijan's attempts to link the conclusion of a political agreement with an Armenian pull-out from Shusha and Lachin.

Shusha, where Azerbaijanis accounted for a majority of the population before the conflict "is in the territory of Nagorno- Karabakh and for that reason the demand for the removal of Karabakh's forces from it is inappropriate", a Foreign Ministry official of the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh republic Masis Mailian has said.

"As for Lachin controlled by Karabakh's forces, this question may be discussed on the condition of final settlement of the armed conflict and reliable guarantees hostilities will not resume, because the Lachin corridor is the sole route connecting Nagorno- Karabakh with the outside world", Mailian said.

Gulizade Reviews Progress in Talks

944K2065A Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by E. Makhmudov, KHABAR-SERVIS correspondent: "Work on the Grand Political Agreement Is Having a Hard Time Making Progress"]

[Text] Work on the Grand Political Agreement on a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict is having a hard time making progress. This was announced by Ambassador Vafa Gulizade, state counselor of Azerbaijan for foreign policy, explaining that Vladimir Kazimirov, ambassador at large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, was currently working actively on a draft treaty, whereas Jan Eliasson, chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference, has yet to embark on the thorough elaboration of a draft agreement.

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V. Gulizade observed that Azerbaijan could not find suitable a version of an agreement that does not raise the fate of Azerbaijan's Lachin and Shusha districts. "I believe that it is this issue that those who do not want to conclude a peace agreement are attempting to manipulate. For sober-minded Armenians the need for the liberation of these two districts should be, in my view, incontestable," the state counselor said.

Concerning the conditions of the conclusion of peace, the Azerbaijani diplomat declared that first and foremost all territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia must be liberated and the refugees must return to their permanent places of residence. Only on these terms can lines of communication be restored and the status of Nagornyy Karabakh determined. It is V. Gulizade's belief that this status will in time altogether lose its significance since the time is coming when not only the Transcaucasus but the whole of the Caucasus also will be integrated in a single economic zone.

Concerning the position of the leadership of Azerbaijan on the question of the commitment to the republic of a disengagement force, the state counselor explained that "we are for the speediest peace that does not impinge upon our dignity and sovereignty. Therefore, if some formations do enter the region, they will be only international security forces with authority and a timeframe for staying in the region that have been limited in advance, that is, exclusively for the period necessary for the establishment of full tranquillity." In the state counselor's opinion, a timeframe of six months should be perfectly satisfactory for both the Azerbaijani and Armenian sides. The composition of this force has yet to be determined, and it is a question at the present time only of the commitment of CSCE observers. The term "international security force," V. Gulizade observed, appeared quite recently and has not been used thus far in world practice. "I believe that we shall have to fill it with substance at the upcoming negotiations with the CSCE and Russia," the state counselor said. "We believe that this should be a mixed force that does not represent just one country."

The Azerbaijani diplomat also announced that en route to the conclusion of peace, agreement concerning 80 percent of all matters connected with this had already been achieved at this time. Only those that are of a fundamental nature remain. For Azerbaijan this means the question of Lachin and Shusha, for Armenia, the security of the Armenians of Karabakh. "Karabakh is inalienable territory of Azerbaijan, from which, at the same time, no one intends to expel the Armenian population or subject it to any discrimination there," the state counselor for foreign policy said in conclusion.

Security Measures Reportedly Tightened in Baku

NC1108194794 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 10 Aug 94 p 11

[Irfan Sapmaz report: "Effective Security Measures in Baku"]

[Text] Baku—Effective security measures have been put into effect in Baku. We have been unable to determine why the security measures have been tightened, particularly on the main roads and streets in the city.

A report that was recently published in the newspapers in Moscow that former President Ayaz Mutalibov is preparing to return to Baku led to the rumor in Azerbaijan that a coup will take place in the Republic. The presidential palace and government officials refrained from making a statement on the matter. However, circles close to the presidential palace said that Moscow has moved to deliberately circulate provocative reports because it wishes to have Ayaz Mutalibov replace Geydar Aliyev. The same circles said that Mutalibov's return to Baku is impossible.

Agreement Signed With Turkey on Power Supply

NC1008205094 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] A protocol on cooperation was signed today between Azerenergy State Company and Turkey's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. Our correspondent Ramiz Meshedihesenli reports:

[Meshedihesenli] In accordance with the interstate agreement on cooperation signed between the two states, the workers in the power sector will now be able to carry out real work.

Last year with the help of the Turkish government power was supplied to Nakhichevan, which had been without electricity due to the blockade imposed by Armenia. The issue of an uninterrupted supply of power to Nakhichevan constituted the main provision of this protocol between the two countries.

Before the signing of the protocol, Muslim Imanov, president of Azerenergy State Company, briefed his Turkish colleagues in detail on the energy potential of Azerbaijan.

After that, Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Veysel Atasoy, and President of Azerenergy State Company Muslim Imanov signed a protocol on bilateral cooperation.

The protocol indicated that Turkey will lay a second line to ensure more reliable operation of the 154-Kilowatt [as received] Igdir-Babek power line between Turkey and Nakhichevan. It also envisages the commissioning of Keban-Erzerum and Carsamba-(Pirabulu) line in 1996 in order to increase the 50 megawatts of power supplied by Turkey to Nakhichevan to 80 or 100 megawatts. The protocol also provides for the joint construction of a number of [word indistinct] and hydroelectric plants in Nakhichevan.

After signing the protocol, Veysel Atasoy presented his book on economy and the privatization program in Turkey to Azerbaijan Deputy Prime Minister Fuat Guliyev, who was present at the signing ceremony.

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Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Altan Karamanoglu was present at the signing ceremony.

Lukoil-Baku Proposes Oil Development Cooperation

NC1008211094 Baku TURAN in English 1704 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 10 (TURAN)—Oil company Lukoil-Baku, an affiliate of Russian company Lukoil, appealed to SOCAR [National Petroleum Corporation of Azerbaijan], proposing joint development of oil fields at the territory of Azerbaijan and in the Azeri sector of the Caspian Sea, Turan was told by Guseyin Aliyev, Deputy of General Director of the company "Lukoil-Baku".

A preliminary agreement on conducting joint works on the oil fields of Siazanneft Oil and Gas Producing Entity (OGPE) has been existing presently between the parties.

According to Guseyin Aliyev, there are unexplored areas in the fields Siazanneft OGPE, the development of which will let to double oil production. Presently the produced oil totals 250 tons per day.

Aliyev noted that increase of output will be provided due to application of new technology and technics.

The volume of investments will total 60 million dollars distributed for 5 years. According to preliminary agreement, the expenditures will be reimbursed due to additional oil production, and the rest "profitable" part of oil will be split between the parties according to the agreements obtained.

According to Aliyev, in conformity with world practice, this ratio can be 50 percent to 50 percent, but may also be another. He said, that Lukoil pays great attention to the training of personnel for work with new technics and technology. The company has all necessary facilities and opportunities for that. Lukoil has contacts with all leading centres on training the specialists-oilmen and is able to allocate necessary amount of fund for training the Azeri specialists abroad.

Lukoil is ready also to cooperate with SOCAR concerning the development of offshore fields in the Azeri sector of the Caspian Sea. "We are ready to develop any areas of offshore fields," TURAN correspondent was told by Aliyev.

Concerning the SOCAR's contract with Western oil consortium Aliyev said that the terms of the contract should be promulgated and discussed in the Azerbaijan's Parliament. "The law on oil should be adopted, otherwise this contract will not have juridically valid," said Aliyev.

Relations With Moscow Show Signs of Improvement

MM1008130694 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 10 Aug 94 p 10

[Report by Hugh Pope: "Azeris Start to Shake Off the Russian Yoke"]

[Text] Baku—Nazim Suleymanov is sharp, trilingual and 29. He also embodies a hope that war-battered Azerbaijan may be reaching a more stable balance in relations with its old Soviet masters in Moscow.

From his desk at the state energy company's offices in the mansion of a pre-1917 oil tycoon, Mr Suleymanov sells Azerbaijan's first trickle of oil-product exports from the rusting rigs just visible on the horizon of the Caspian Sea.

"I have a little business. I deal with the Americans, British, Turks, Iranians, Russians. But I never feel Russian pressure. Everybody is equal for me," said Mr Suleymanov, signing papers as older generation Soviet-era bureaucrats jumped at his orders. Many Azeris wish they could also keep at bay the many-cornered struggle for their country and its oil wealth.

Russia ruled Azerbaijan for two centuries. Few doubt that Moscow exploited its alliance with Christian Armenia and the post-Soviet weaknesses of Azerbaijan to help topple its first Turkish nationalist government and to stall an off-shore oil deal with a Western consortium led by British Petroleum. But some senior Azeris and Western diplomats say they detect a shift in Russia's attitude. The one-year-old government of President Heydar Aliyev, an ex-Soviet politburo member, has also softened, even though he has resisted giving up on one achievement of the former government, unique among ex-Soviet republics—expelling all Russian garrisons.

The hard-line Russian Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, has said he wants the Russian bases back. But for all General Grachev's bluster, some diplomats say Moscow has bitten off more than it can chew in the trans-Caucasus and even the central Asian state of Tajikistan.

"The Russians are being painted as puppet-masters. I don't agree. Their policy-making is fragmented. It may be 'in their interest' to have conflict, but they have simply taken advantage of turmoil," said one Western envoy. "Russia may be having second thoughts about whether it is worth being over-extended with an open-ended commitment in lots of small regional conflicts, which they don't control the way they thought they did."

Vefa Gulizade, a senior adviser of President Aliyev, said nascent Russian imperialism could not work. "Soviet ideology was powerful. It could keep an empire together and widen it," he said. "Nobody can bring back these nations. You can't re-establish the Soviet Union. There are only economic interests."

The Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan, Walter Shonia, insisted that times have changed. He has direct experience of new circumstances, having had his Mercedes stolen at his Baku hotel, lacking the money to move into a new embassy and facing long queues of old would-be Russian returnees at his temporary consulate.

"The military has its own interests... as has the economy. We have a deadly need for prosperity. Russia will not sell

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its wealth for alleged political-military advances," Mr Shonia said, noting a Russian company's interest in exploiting the new Caspian oil fields. "Who divided the Soviet Union? Yeltsin's Russia. It was an unbearable burden to have this on their shoulders."

But the former Soviet diplomat angrily denounced British criticism of Russian insistence on talking about Caspian Sea territorial rights, a question that could stall the oil negotiations yet again. "We are for co-operation. But we are not going to accept those who are foolish enough to think they can kick out Russia," he said.

Azeris know that Russia's ability to destabilise remains strong, as does its capacity to say one thing to the West and do another thing on the ground as it garners an everstronger grip over the Armenian-Azeri "peace process" in the conflict over the enclave of Nagornyy Karabakh.

Azerbaijan has also learned how little any new friends can help. Turkey lacks funds, Iran laces aid with unpalatable Islamic dogma and one Azeri diplomat remembers trying to explain to a US general how they wanted to keep Russian troops out. "That's your internal affair," the diplomat quoted his American guest as replying.

But like the oil company's Mr Suleymanov, Azeris are growing confident that they cannot be re-conquered by Russia. More new foreign cars line Baku's streets, shops are filled with foreign goods, the new Latin script is slowly spreading and a student generation is growing up believing in the new state. "The government now has some idea about what to do with the country," Mr Suleymanov said. "Everything is changed. New people are emerging. I hope we'll stay independent. The old bridge to the past has been burned."

Presidential Edict on Anti-Crime Struggle Analyzed

NC1008205594 Baku TURAN in English 1705 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 10 (TURAN)—As was earlier reported, on August 9 President Aliyev issued a Decree on strengthening of struggle against criminality. According to several independent lawyers, Presidential Decree considerably extends the duties and the rights of law-enforcement bodies. It should be mentioned that high finance in banks and commercial structures are among the especially grave crimes in Presidential Decree. The Decree demands to take the control over the currency remittance from abroad to Azeri enterprises, false bankruptcy, conceal of incomes and the others.

The representatives of commercial structures and banks say that implementation of Presidential Decree can strike a considerable blow on Azeri business. In accordance with Presidential Decree, law- enforcement bodies will have right to check the activity of all enterprises and organizations, irrespective of form of their property. "This Decree will allow the police and the Procurator's Office to collect bribes from businessmen", one of Azeri businessmen told Turan speaking on condition of anonymity. He said that the Decree will not promote development of market economy in Azerbaijan. "I think that presently Azeri President must adopt laws, which will soften import-export relations in the country, but despite that the authorities make everything to take the control over all the business spheres of Azerbaijan".

At the same time, Presidential Decree has political ground as well. In accordance with Presidential Decree, the Procurator's Office must prepare the list of cities and regions with high crime rate. It means that President can establish state of emergency in any city or region without agreement of the Milli Mejlis [National Assembly].

TURAN's experts consider that President Aliyev tries to prevent the events similar to those, which had taken place under Elchibey a year ago. If take into accounts the fact that very soon oil contract concerning joint development of Caspian offshore oil-fields will be signed by western consortium and SOCAR [National Petroleum Corporation of Azerbaijan] and articles about the end of President Aliyev's political career often appear in Russia's press, his activities are quite logical and understandable.

Industrial Property Pact Signed With Russia

944K2065B Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 1

[AZERTADZH report: "Intergovernmental Agreement Signed"]

[Text] An intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the sphere of protection of industrial property has been signed between Azerbaijan and Russia.

The parties have agreed to harmonize national legal instruments in this sphere and also to simplify the procedure for filing and consideration of applications requesting the issuance of protective documents by Azerbaijani and Russian applicants on their territories.

Documents pertaining to industrial properties issued in the period of the existence of the USSR are deemed valid in both countries, which undertake to specify in their legislative instruments the right to convert inventor's certificates of the USSR for discoveries and industrial samples into national patents.

On behalf of the governments of their countries, the documents were signed by Academician Azad Mirzadzhanzade, chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology of Azerbaijan, and Vitaliy Rassokhin, chairman of the Committee for Patents and Trademarks of Russia.

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Georgia

Defense Minister Praises Russian Peacemaking Role

NC1108194994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1629 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 11 August (SNARK)—Georgian Defense Minister, Lieut. Gen. Vardiko Nadibaidze, qualified as positive the active part of Russia in a peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. He expressed this opinion after a closed-door meeting in Zugdidi yesterday, attended by the First Deputy Defense Minister of Russia, Gheorgiy Kondratyev, Deputy Commander of Russian General Staff, Vladimir Zhubenko, Georgian parliamentary Jaba Iosseliani, and Abkhazian representatives.

Georgian Defense Minister expressed a hope that all disputes will be probably resolved soon.

Today Vardiko Nadibaidze left for Kodori gorge to inspect the situation in place.

Abkhazia Condemns Attack by Georgian 'Terrorists'

NC1108201194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1629 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Sukhumi, 11 August (SNARK)—Abkhazian Foreign Ministry appeared today with an announcement, condemning the gunfire by the Georgian terrorist group of a car near the Sida village—Gali region of Abkhazia—on August 8, the result of which were four dead and one severely wounded.

The statement says, in particular, that gunning was a carefully prepared terrorist act, representing a part of a general plan preventing the peace process.

"Stake at terrorist acts and urge of refugees to a mass and uncontrolled passage to Abkhazia, as well as delay in Georgian forces withdrawal from Kodori Gorge, may only strain the situation and break the whole peace settlement process", reads the statement.

According to the Abkhazian Foreign Ministry, there were numerous uncontrolled crossings of security zone along Inguri River by the armed persons from the Georgian side, with the aim to form armed groups on Abkhazian territory.

Georgian Refugees To Return to Abkhazia Soon

LD1108143094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] All conditions have now been set for the repatriation of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and commander of the Russian Peacekeeping Force in the region Vasiliy Yakushev said today. Their statement came at the end of a meeting in Tbilisi on Thursday, an official spokesman in the Georgian capital told INTERFAX.

He said the repatriation process was due to start in the next few days.

For its part, Abkhazia has been hampering the process which, it insists, must not start until after Georgian Government troops pull out of its Kodor Gorge. Sukhumi now alleges Georgia is refusing to withdraw its heavy weapons from Kodor.

In the meantime, the Georgian defense ministry said all of its troops had left the gorge earlier this week, but there has been no official statement from the Georgian Government to confirm this.

Russian and Georgian military commanders visiting Kodor on Wednesday said there were no longer any Georgian forces there, the spokesman said.

Official Says Georgians Withdrawing From Kodor

LD1108155194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0927 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—Georgia thinks that the Abkhaz side deliberately fans up tension around the deployment of the Georgian armed formations in the Kodor Gorge, making the resolution of the refugee problem dependent upon the withdrawal of these troops. This was pointed out by Mikhail Mchedlidze, a Georgian member of parliament and head of the parliamentary press center during a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

He said that the withdrawal of the Georgian formations had begun on Tuesday [9 August] and was currently continuing under the observations of the CIS peacekeeping forces. Following orders from the Russian general Vasiliy Yakushev, head of the peacekeeping mission, air force was monitoring the troop redeployment area.

Along with numerous other politicians in the republic, Mchedlidze thinks that the Georgian troop withdrawal does not in itself signify that the situation will have returned fully to normal, because the situation in the gorge continued to be controlled not by Georgian, but by the Svan armed formations, whose detachments not only had firearms, but also tanks and artillery. The demilitarization of this area, in Mikhail Mchedlidze's view, requires joint efforts on the part both of the Georgian and Abkhazian sides, as well as the support from the CIS peacekeeping forces.

Let us recall that according to the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet data, currently staying in the Kodor Gorge are Georgian formations numbering between 600 and 700 soldiers and officers and also more than 20 pieces of armor. This is delaying the fulfillment of the 14 May 1994 agreement which, in particular, provides for the

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demilitarization of this mountainous region. The last deadline for the withdrawal of troops from this strategic hotbed of tension expired on 30 July.

Commander Expected To Leave Kodor 12 Aug

LD1208134194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] It is expected that the commander of Georgian infantry troops, Gudzha Kurashvili, along with his bodyguards will leave the Kodor Gorge in Abkhazia Friday where for the past four months he has commanded Georgian troops, INTERFAX was told by a well-informed source in Tbilisi.

"Thus no Georgian serviceman will remain in the Kodori Gorge," said the source.

A spokesman for the Georgian Defense Ministry told INTERFAX that later on Thursday Georgian Defense Minister Varden Nadibaidze flew to the Kodor Gorge. Representatives of the command of the Russian peacekeeping contingent and UN observers will arrive there on Friday. They will ascertain whether Georgian government troops left the gorge.

Meanwhile, the Abkhaz Defense Ministry said on Thursday that up to 120 servicemen of the Georgian army, up to 200 border guards and up to 500 fighters of other Georgian armed units, as well as up to 12 armored units, 26 artillery pieces and 40 air defense pieces will remain in the Kodor Gorge.

Georgian Official Rejects Troop Withdrawal

MK1208084494 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Abkhazia"]

[Text] "There will be no withdrawal of Georgian troops from Abkhazia," Georgian Deputy Defense Minister Grigoriy Nikolaishvili, who arrived in the Kodor Ravine for quadrilateral talks, told representatives of the command of the Russian peacekeeping forces and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Abkhazia, and also Colonel General Kondratyev, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, and Colonel General Zhurbenko, first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

No Quorum for Emergency Session of Parliament

LD1208092094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Toward the end of this morning's "Rush Hour" program we doubted we would be on the air now, as the Georgian parliament was to convene in emergency session today. The session was only on the air for several minutes, but in the end it did not take place and we had to to drop our live coverage from the parliament building. The session was not held due to the lack of a quorum. We received this information several minutes ago from the parliament building.

Opposition Blames Parliament Majority

LD1208105994 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Tbilisi, (IPRINDA)—As is known, an emergency session of the Georgian parliament was to discuss the issue of state power on 12 August. However, due to the lack of a quorum, this issue was not discussed, for which the opposition blamed the parliamentary majority. Nodar Natadze, a leader of the United Republican party, suggested a timetable be drawn up for meetings of representatives of various factions with the head of state, and suggested that the issue of state power be discussed in September. Shevardnadze supported this proposal.

Muchaidze, leader of the Social-Democratic party, declared that Shevardnadze has already been de facto removed from power by the mafia but, he said, this has to be confirmed de jure.

Kakubava, chairman of the Abkhazian Liberation Union, suggested the issue of power be discussed in 10 days as the Georgian authorities promised to resolve the Abkhaz issue within this period of time.

Shevardnadze Says Economy 'Beginning To Improve'

AU1108161794 Paris AFP in English 1540 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By Chris Bird]

[Text] Tbilisi, Aug 11 (AFP)—Georgia is bracing itself for another long, hard winter with shortages of the most basic necessities, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze said Thursday.

Shortages of electricity, water and bread should be expected in the coming winter, but Georgia's economy is on the mend, Shevardnadze told AFP during a tour of state utilities and private businesses in Tbilisi.

"There will not be enough, but it will be better than last year," he said.

Still reeling from the effects of two civil wars, two separatist conflicts and the painful disengagement from the former Soviet economy, Georgia's economy is on its knees.

Industry, where it still functions, operates at just 10 percent of capacity.

The bread factory in Telavi, a town east of the capital, stopped operations last week for lack of flour and aid agencies have warned of grain shortfalls later this year.

According to John Murray of the World Food Programme, donations of grain for the last two months of

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this year have yet to be confirmed. The organization has however leased 10 diesel-powered locomotives from Russia to distribute aid across the Transcaucasus in an attempt to beat the energy deficit this winter.

Trish Blair, head of the US ACTS International charity, said "stocks are nearly running out of almost everything."

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has so far refused to release any of Georgia's quota of 111 million special drawing rights (about $160 million), blaming the country's lax credit policies.

A new banknote for 50,000 coupons was issued last week, increasing inflationary pressure on the already near-worthless Georgian currency. Five hundred Georgian coupons now buy one Russian rouble and the rouble is now Georgia's de facto currency.

Meeting with officials from the state water utility, Tbilvodkanal, Shevardnadze denied appeals for credits and told the officials, "You must find the money yourselves."

But only one in eight users are paying their water bills, leaving Tbilvodkanal with a $400,000 debt to the state electricity company.

Despite the mess, Shevardnadze claims that the economy is picking up and that the IMF has promised credits by the end of the year. "The economy is beginning to improve," he said.

Shevardnadze's brief tour took in private shops along Chavchavadze Prospect, including the gleaming Bata shoe store, whose array of ordinary western-style shoes is something of a capitalist oasis in the country's consumer desert.

"A market economy is the only way out for this country," said Irakli Kikodze, the 21-year-old manager of the store, who claims sales of shoes are strong despite being 45 times the average monthly salary of around $1.

Shevardnadze has survived the humiliating loss of the separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. But another winter of want in a country accustomed to plenty threatens to end Georgia's patience with the former Soviet foreign minister.

Shevardnadze Proposes Return of Gamsakhurdia Supporters

LD1108131394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has proposed that supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia who left the country, return. However, this proposal does not extend to those guilty of crimes.

Speaking on national television on Wednesday, Shevardnadze denied that there are political prisoners in Georgia. "The so-called national heroes who are imprisoned now are nothing more than ordinary terrorists," Shevardnadze said.

Gamsakhurdia, the first president of Georgia, lead the country from 1990 till January 1992 when he was ousted by military force.

According to the official version, 55-year old Gamsakhurdia committed suicide in a village in western Georgia on December 31, 1993.

So. Ossetia Repudiates Quadrilateral Statement

LD1108173894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Future talks between Georgia and its independently-minded province of South Ossetia are problematic, said the Georgian head of state's special envoy to the rebellious region.

Vazha Khachapuridze told Interfax that he had had a report from South Ossetia that the latter's legislature had repudiated the quadrilateral statement signed in June by representatives of Georgia, South Ossetia, the Russian republic of North Ossetia, and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

IF Note: In that document, signed in the North Ossetian capital Vladikavkaz, the four parties pledged to combine forces to stabilize the situation in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, restore transport arteries, industry and agriculture in the region, and make formal and other arrangements for the return of refugees.

"This is especially strange because, before the statement was signed in Vladikavkaz, it was discussed by the South Ossetian parliament, was approved and no alterations had been made in it by the moment it was signed," Khachapuridze said.

Calling the South Ossetian legislators' decision "unreasonable and provocative," he said, "The nationalist and separatist forces still seek to prevent the restoration of a good relationship between Georgians and Ossetians, something the more sensible part of Ossetian society wants so much."

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Estonia

Borderguard Not Advised of Demarcation by Russia

WS1108115394 Tallinn BNS in English 0926 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 11, BNS—The Russian borderguard will begin marking the border with Estonia tomorrow, Aug. 12, Major General Aleksei Kozhevnikov, deputy commander of the Russian borderguard forces, told the Interfax news agency.

Kozhevnikov said the demarcation will be carried out by special working groups, led by the border committee that participated in talks with Estonia. The workers' security will be ensured by Russian borderguards.

"We hope the Estonian side will understand the urgent need for the operation, since it will be done in the common interest of both countries," Kozhevnikov added.

Kozhevnikov has not informed the Estonian borderguard of the planned demarcation, director of Estonian Borderguard Department Tarmo Kouts asserted to BNS today.

Kouts said he had had a telephone conversation with General Yunov, commander of the Russian borderguard Northwestern Group, who also had said there would be no unilateral demarcation. "General Yunov assured he would inform us of the demarcation beforehand," Kouts added.

Estonia refuses to acknowledge the present border with Russia as an official demarcation line, because it would annex to Russia a territory of about 2,000 square kilometers, which belongs to Estonia according to the 1920 Tartu peace treaty.

The order to start unilateral demarcation of the Estonian-Russian border was given by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin July 18. It says the border must be marked by the end of 1994.

Official Reviews Situation in Paldiski

WS1108130994 Tallinn BNS in English 0926 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 11, BNS—Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk today investigated the situation in Paldiski. "I was first of all interested in everything concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia," Malk told BNS. The chancellor said he discussed with the Russian side questions of interpretation of the Estonian-Russian accord on Paldiski. "Today's meeting brought to light several differences of opinion, but despite that we reached agreement that work (on the agreement) must go on," he said.

Malk told BNS the Russian side informed him and Paldiski officials about maneuvers they have scheduled for Friday to train the removal of military equipment from the town. The plan for the maneuvers includes practicing the removal of nuclear fuel rods, Malk said. "The operation will be conducted together with the staff of the Rescue Department," he noted.

Other issues discussed today included problems of municipal economy and the utilization of possible foreign aid to Paldiski, Malk said.

Progress in Russian Troop Withdrawal Reported

WS1208103094 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 0741 GMT 12 Aug 94

["Status report" on progress of Russian troop withdrawal "as of 10 August 1994" citing data from the Estonian Ministry of Defense—received via Internet E-LIST]

[Text] Almost to the end of July, 1994, Russia was putting into question the possibility of completing the withdrawal of all its troops from Estonia by August 31, 1994—the deadline previously proposed by the Russian side—while at the same time still continuing the withdrawal at a relatively slow pace. However, under the agreement signed by the presidents of the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation on July 26, 1994, the Russian side officially undertook to withdraw its troops from Estonia by August 31, 1994, while the deadline provided for the liquidation of Paldiski nuclear objects is September 30, 1995.

From July 26 to date, ten smaller objects or buildings in Tallinn and three in Paldiski have been officially handed over to Estonian control. It is significant that the Russian side has started the withdrawal of its last striking force—the units of the 144th motorized rifle division located in Tondi (Tallinn), Klooga and Keila. On July 31 an echelon loaded with 67 infantry armoured vehicles BMP-2 and seven mobile rocket launchers left Tallinn. On August 1 and 5, two more echelons left with trucks and other equipment. From August 1 to 9, seven freight wagons with 24 cannons (85 mm) and 10 wagons with various other equipment were taken away by rail. On July 28, twenty-three trucks were shipped away from Paldiski. On August 5, the ships "Irgiz" and "Bira" left the Mine Port by truck. On August 9, a transport ship left Paldiski port loaded with eleven T-72 tanks.

The removal of the next echelons through Klooga and Uelemiste railway stations and the concentration of tanks to Paldiski Southern Port are underway.

On July 28, 1994, the Russian Naval Base at Tallinn formally ended its existence although the official registration of the transfer of the objects abandoned by it is still in process.

Among the most important objects currently under transfer along with the preparation of the respective documents, mention should also be made of the depots and a shooting range of the 144th division in Maenniku

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near Tallinn, of the ammunition and explosives depots in Astangu and Viimsi previously belonging to the navy, as well as of the dwellings in the town of Paldiski.

As of August 10, 1994, Russian troops hold objects in Tallinn and Harju county only. These belong to the 144th rifle division, the former Tallinn naval base and the 93d naval training centre in Paldiski.

The total number of troops has fallen to about 1,600-1,700 men while there are up to 800 men in the division and about 500 men in Paldiski naval centre. Aemari airport is still being used by the Russian Army.

Taking into consideration the facts that three whole weeks are left until the final deadline for the withdrawal of Russian troops and that the number of troops has decreased significantly, there are no technical obstacles to the complete withdrawal of Russian troops by August 31. Also, there are not any obstacles to beginning the dismantling of the nuclear reactors located in Paldiski. According to information provided by the Russian side, the removal of the fuel rods will begin about August 15-20. After that the object shall be turned over to civilian control.

Latvia

Proposed Cabinet List Submitted to President

LD1108152894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister-designate Andrejs Krastins is now presenting a statement to State President Guntis Ulmanis about the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers and the government declaration. These documents are due to be submitted to Saeima Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs this evening.

A meeting of the Saeima Presidium is planned for tomorrow. It will decide on calling an extraordinary session of the Saeima to approve the composition of the new Cabinet and the government declaration. After the Presidium session, there will be a press conference at 1300 at which Andrejs Krastins will introduce the composition of his cabinet and the basic points in the government declaration.

So, according to provisional data, Andrejs Krastins and the cabinet he has formed are as follows:

Minister of Economics	Dzintars Kalnins
Associate Prime Minister and, for the time being, also Minister of Transport	Aristids Lambergs
Minister of State for Privatization	(Roberts Zile)
Minister of Finance	Edmunds Krastins
Minister of State for the State Budget	(Inguna Sudraba)
Minister of State for State Revenue	Guntis Grube
Minister of Education and Science	(Elmars Grens)
Minister of Culture	(Ramona Umblija)
Minister of Defense	Anita Stankevica
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Aleksandrs Kirsteins
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Juris Sinka
Minister of Welfare	Maris Budovskis
Minister of State for Health	(Viktors Jaksons)
Minister of Agriculture	Gundars Berzins
Minister of State for Forestry	Kazimirs Slakota
Minister of Internal Affairs	Imants (Bekess)
Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Inese Vaidere
Minister of Rights [as heard]	(Aiva Zarina)
Minister of State for Human Rights	Anta Rugate
Minister of State Reforms	Viesturs Pauls Karnups

We will add that in the version of the Cabinet formed by Krastins, it has been decided not to have a post of Minister of State Property, as the issues concerned with the privatization of state property are said to be already solved.

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